

Hafa Adai!

Happy Liberation Day!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you find the
naming of Saipan's
streets useful or not?

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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Evacuation

Authorities order residents of Big Sur to leave because an out-of-control wildfire.

NATION...Page 25



Algae Bloom

China's latest Olympics nightmare is a vast algae bloom that covers a third of the sea.

ASIA...Page 26



'Wanted'

Some things about the summer movie season are as predictable as... well, the summer movie season.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 33

'CUC's used oil tank on the brink of failure' **PAGE 3**
Cing to contest Crisostimo's bid for delegate post. **PAGE 5**

Power rates go up further

As long as the price [of oil] per barrel continues to rise, our consumers are likely to experience the same incline.
—Antonio A. Muna, CUC executive director

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth's already high power rates just got a little steeper. The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. issued its new schedule of rates yesterday and, for this month, it boosted the electric fuel rates by 2.6 cents per kilowatt an hour.



Muna

See **POWER** on Page 4

Child tax credit checks now out

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
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REPORTER

About 3,000 families in the Commonwealth can expect to receive federal child tax credits beginning Monday.

Finance Secretary Eloy Inos

announced yesterday that it had begun distributing about \$2.6 million in child tax credits. The funds come from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service

"The checks are in the mail," said Inos.

See **CHILD** on Page 4

Budget woes cancel fireworks exhibition

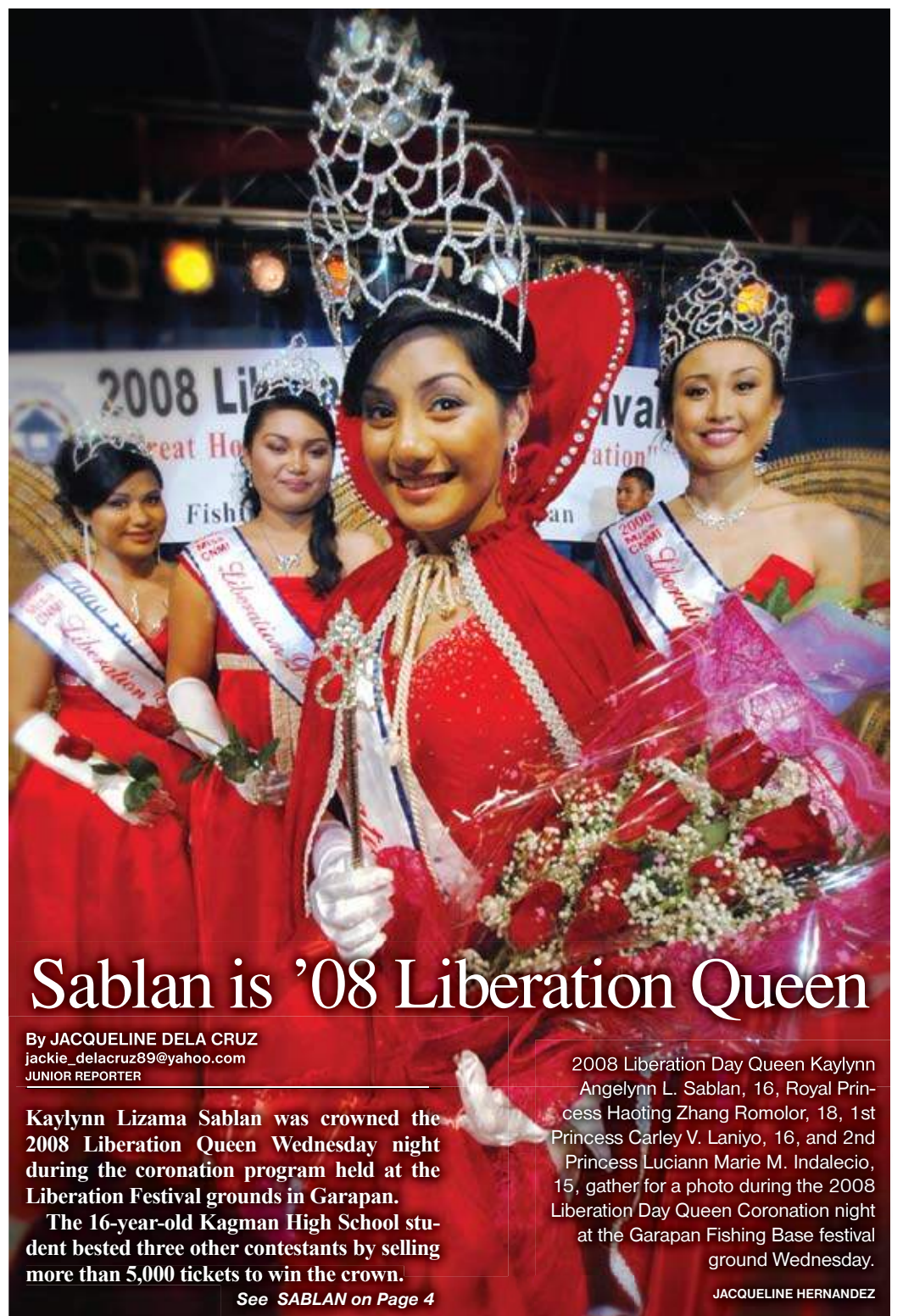
By **FERDIE DELA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A short stretch of Beach Road from the National Office Supply to the Garapan Fishing Base is ground zero today, with thou-

sands expected to throng both sides of the highway to celebrate this year's Liberation Day with a parade, speeches, dances, and a carnival.

One thing that will be missed is the fireworks exhibition.

See **BUDGET** on Page 4



Sablan is '08 Liberation Queen

By **JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ**
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JUNIOR REPORTER

Kaylynn Lizama Sablan was crowned the 2008 Liberation Day Queen Wednesday night during the coronation program held at the Liberation Festival grounds in Garapan.

The 16-year-old Kagman High School student bested three other contestants by selling more than 5,000 tickets to win the crown.

See **SABLAN** on Page 4

2008 Liberation Day Queen Kaylynn Angelynn L. Sablan, 16, Royal Princess Haoting Zhang Romolor, 18, 1st Princess Carley V. Laniyo, 16, and 2nd Princess Luciann Marie M. Indalecio, 15, gather for a photo during the 2008 Liberation Day Queen Coronation night at the Garapan Fishing Base festival ground Wednesday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

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BETTER. BOLDER. BIKE

Local

'Let immigration officers withdraw contributions'

CNMI immigration officers who will lose their jobs due to "federalization" should be allowed to withdraw their pension contributions regardless of eligibility, according to the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs.

The Division of Immigration employs 65 officers. Most of these employees have retirement benefits that have accrued in the defined benefit plan, the Senate committee said in a report.

Currently, only government employees who have been paying to the defined benefit plan for 15 years or less can withdraw their contributions.

The committee said this option should be extended to all CNMI Division of Immigration employees who will be displaced by the new immigration system and who cannot be assigned to another position in the CNMI government.

While the new immigration law grants hiring preference to the current immigration officers, it does not guarantee they will have jobs under the federalized system. The U.S. government will assume control of CNMI immigration on June 1, 2009.

The early pension withdrawal started as an option available only to employees with 10 years of government service. Last year, it was expanded to include employees with up to 15 years of contributions. This resulted in a rash of refund requests, the NMI Retirement Fund has reported.

According to Fund administrator Mark Aguon, since the law was enacted last year, contribution withdrawals had averaged \$500,000 a month. The Fund is unsure whether this is good or bad for the pension program.

Aguon has said it is likely to benefit the pension program in the long term. The more people taking out their contributions, the fewer future retirees will there be. That means the pension agency will have less liability to fund.

But more withdrawals also mean the retirement program will have to dispense more money than it normally does. Since no government contributions are going into the Fund, the short-term impact can be

See LET on Page 4

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'CUC's used oil tank on the brink of failure'

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**
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BUSINESS EDITOR

An oil storage tank at the Commonwealth Utility Corp.'s power plant in Puerto Rico is on the brink of a major spill that could pollute Saipan's lagoon, according to the prominent community group TaoTao Tano and CUC's former executive director.

Tank 104, a 300,000 gallon storage unit for used oil at the CUC plant that is already facing a review by environmental regulators, is "an accident waiting to happen," said Gregorio Cruz, president of Tao Tao Tano, in an interview Wednesday.

Earlier this week, Cruz filed a

citizen's complaint over the tank with the CNMI Department of Environmental Quality. The tank, he says, has previously leaked a significant quantity of

oil onto the surrounding land and is in such poor condition that more is likely to be spilled.

"Years of mismanagement have come down to this," he said, noting that the tank's proximity to a nearby beach means that a major leak could send the oil into

Saipan's lagoon. "If you just pick up the dirt there, you can see oil."

Former CUC executive director Ramon S. Guerrero echoed



Guerrero

those fears in a statement Sunday, warning that the storage tank is on "the brink of a catastrophic

failure" and is "near ready to fall apart."

In addition to problems with the tank, CUC has a host of leaking waste oil drums, Guer-

rero noted, adding that CUC has failed to address any of its oil storage issues despite a 2006 order by the Environmental Protection Agency threatening thousands of dollars in daily fines unless they are resolved.

"If CUC deals with this in their laissez-faire way, soon all we will have is our beautiful lagoon completely polluted by contaminated oil," Guerrero said. "For all the hotel owners, especially some sympathizers, be aware that your hotel beach front could be the worst nightmare yet on our beautiful island. Already, the coastline at Tanapag and Charlie Dock is showing signs of oil spill."

DEQ's acting manager on oil storage issues, James Callier, downplayed suggestions that the oil tank poses a serious environmental threat, saying it is positioned inside a large secondary containment area capable of holding its entire contents should a rupture occur. Callier added the tank is likely less than half full.

"To our knowledge there are no current leaks from tank 104,"

DEQ spokeswoman Reina Camacho added in a statement, noting that DEQ, EPA and CUC are now analyzing data on the tanks and waste oil drums to determine how to regulate them. DEQ officials got the final pieces of that data last week, she said.

CUC officials did not respond to several requests for comment on this story and requests for access to view the storage tank.

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BY THE NUMBERS

The Fourth of July

On this day in 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, setting the 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. As always, this most American of holidays will be marked by parades, fireworks and backyard barbecues across the country.

2.5 MILLION
In July 1776, the estimated number of people living in the newly independent nation.

304 MILLION
The nation’s population on this July Fourth.

FOURTH OF JULY COOKOUTS

MORE THAN 1 IN 4
The chance that the hot dogs and pork sausages consumed on the Fourth of July originated in Iowa. The Hawkeye State was home to 17.6 million market hogs and pigs on March 1, 2008. This represents more than one-fourth of the nation’s total. North Carolina (9 million) and Minnesota (6.7 million) were the runners-up.

SABLAN

From Page 1

“I was shocked, I wasn’t expecting it, and it was really a surprise. I only learned that I won when they announced it,” said Sablan.

“[My family] knew I was the winner,

6.8 BILLION POUNDS
Total production of cattle and calves in Texas in 2007. Chances are good that the beef hot dogs, steaks and burgers on your backyard grill came from the Lone Star State, which accounted for about one-sixth of the nation’s total production. And if the beef did not come from Texas, it very well may have come from Nebraska (4.7 billion pounds) or Kansas (4.1 billion pounds).

6
Number of states in which the revenue from broiler chickens was \$1 billion or greater between December 2006 and November 2007. There is a good chance that one of these states—Georgia, Arkansas, North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi or Texas—is the source of your barbecued chicken.

ABOUT 4 IN 10
The odds that your side dish of baked beans originated from North Dakota, which produced 42 percent of the nation’s dry, edible beans in 2007. Another popular Fourth of July side dish is corn on the cob. Florida, California, Georgia and New York together accounted for 60 percent of the sweet corn produced nationally in 2007.

PLEASE PASS THE POTATO SALAD

but they didn’t tell me,” she laughed.

The beauty pageant is a fundraising drive by the Saipan Mayor’s Office.

Carley Laniyo was crowned 1st Princess, while Luciann Indalecio was named 2nd Princess. The Royal Princess title went to Haoting Romolor.

Sablan, the daughter of Maryann Lizama and Lorenzo Robert, said she

Potato salad and potato chips are popular food items at Fourth of July barbecues. More than half (52 percent) of the nation’s spuds were produced in Idaho or Washington state in 2007.

MORE THAN THREE-FOURTHS
Amount of the nation’s head lettuce production in 2007 that came from California. This lettuce may end up in your salad or on your burger.

NEARLY 3 IN 4
The chances that the fresh tomatoes in your salad came from Florida or California, which combined accounted for 73 percent of U.S. tomato production last year. The ketchup on your burger or hot dog probably came from California, which accounted for 96 percent of processed tomato production in 2007.

GEORGIA
The state that led the nation in watermelon production last year (1 billion pounds). Other leading producers of this popular Fourth of July dessert included California, Florida and Texas, each with more than 400 million pounds.

MORE THAN 74 MILLION
Number of Americans who said they have taken part in a barbecue during the previous year. It’s probably safe to assume a lot of these events took place

would continue helping the Saipan Mayor’s Office bring in more tourists, as she wants to become an ambassador someday.

Right after the Coronation Night, Sablan and her family went around the carnival.

Mayor Juan B. Tudela said he is proud of all the contestants.

BUDGET

From Page 1

ing, though, is the traditional fireworks display, which has been scrapped due to the lack of funds.

Despite this, scores of families have begun camping out along Beach Road to reserve the best spots in preparation for today’s parade, and thousands more will be lining the road when the parade begins at 2pm.

In their official message to the public, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez said: “On the 4th of July, we celebrate America’s Independence Day and our islands’ Liberation Day. We take great pride

in the freedoms and rights established by America’s founding fathers and extended to our islands nearly two centuries later. We are grateful to the men and women in uniform who have defended our freedoms in war and in peace. Happy Independence Day and Happy Liberation Day.”

Police deployment
The Department of Public Safety will deploy 25 uniformed police officers to guide traffic flow and maintain peace and order during the parade and festivities.

DPS commissioner Claudio Norita tapped Traffic Section officer in charge Sgt. Jerry Ayuyu as the overall police commander for the Liberation Day.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro

told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that medics will also be placed on standby in case of emergency.

Beach Road from Chalan Laulau to Quartermaster Road all the way to Beach Road Garapan will be closed beginning at 12:30pm. DPS urges the public to find alternative routes during the road closure.

Police will re-open Beach Road after the completion of the parade.

The official start of the parade is at 2pm. The parade route will begin at the National Office Supply and will end at the Liberation Day grandstand located in front of Horiguchi Building in Garapan.

Tight budget
The economic crisis that has laid siege

CHILD

From Page 1

The child tax credit is available to taxpayers who have a child under the age of 17. In general, a “qualifying” child is any individual for whom the taxpayer can claim a dependency exemption and who is the taxpayer’s son or daughter,

stepson or stepdaughter, brother or sister, or eligible foster child.

The child tax credit is \$1,000 per “qualifying” child.

The \$2.6 million received for tax year 2007 is by far the largest amount the CNMI government has obtained for the payment of child tax credits. The CNMI got \$1.4 million for tax year 2006, and \$1.6 million for 2005.

The Fitial administration, in a press statement, commended the Department of Finance for processing the 2007 income tax returns promptly. The department’s swift action made possible the timely release of the child tax credits, the administration said.

The child tax credits come shortly after the Finance Department began releasing U.S. stimulus checks, some of

POWER

From Page 1

From the fluctuating electric rate of 38.7 cents per kWh in June, this month’s fluctuating electric rate is now 41.3 cents per kWh.

This means that under the July rates, residential customers will be assessed 41.3 cents in electric fuel rate plus 1.6 cents in electric non-fuel rate, for a total of 42.9 cents per kWh for the first 500

kWh—the highest ever electric rate in the CNMI.

Those consuming 501 to 1,000 kWh will be charged 41.3 cents in electric fuel rate plus 6.6 cents in electric non-fuel rate, for a total of 47.9 cents per kWh.

For residential customers that incur 1,001 to 2,000 kWh, they will be assessed 41.3 cents in electric fuel rate plus 8.6 cents in electric non-fuel rate, for a total of 49.9 cents per kWh.

Residential customers that consume over 2,000 kWh, they will be charged

41.3 cents in electric fuel rate plus 12.7 cents in electric non-fuel rate, for a total of 54 cents per kWh.

In addition, all residential customers will be paying the fixed customer monthly charge of \$5.60.

For businesses, the picture is worse. Under this month’s rate, they will be assessed 41.3 cents in electric fuel rate plus 8.6 cents in non-fuel rate, for a total of 49.9 cents per kWh. Businesses must also pay the fixed monthly customer charge of \$7.67.

on Independence Day.

FIREWORKS

\$207 MILLION
The value of fireworks imported from China in 2007, representing the bulk of all U.S. fireworks imported (\$217 million). U.S. exports of fireworks, by comparison, came to just \$14.9 million in 2007, with Japan purchasing more than any other country (\$3.8 million).

\$17.3 MILLION
The value of U.S. manufacturers’ shipments of fireworks in 2002.

FLAGS

\$4.7 MILLION
In 2007, the dollar value of U.S. imports of American flags. The vast majority of this amount (\$4.3 million) was for U.S. flags made in China.

\$2.4 MILLION
Dollar value of U.S. flags exported in 2007. Mexico was the leading customer, purchasing \$1.2 million worth.

\$349.2 MILLION
Annual dollar value of shipments of fabricated flags, banners and similar emblems by the nation’s manufacturers, according to the latest published

“The four beautiful girls worked so hard for more than a month to raise funds as they competed to be our Liberation Day Queen 2008,” said Tudela. “I would like to thank the parents, families and supporters of these four beautiful girls. Thank you for your unselfish support to help their candidate, especially during these difficult times.”

to the islands has resulted in a scaled-down celebration that effectively ruled out plans to stage the fireworks display. Saipan Mayor Saipan B. Tudela said this year’s parade alone will cost \$50,000 already.

Today’s celebration also comes against the backdrop of last year’s fireworks display, which went awry and hurt some people. The stand on which the fireworks were placed had tipped over, resulting the fireworks shooting into the crowd of onlookers instead of flying into the air. The incident has resulted in a lawsuit being filed against the Municipality of Saipan.

Saipan is not alone in this, however. Public displays and sales of boxed firecrackers are being canceled or scaled

which are still being processed.

Inos also reported that about \$10 million to \$15 million in CNMI tax rebates will be released in the next 60 days, based on the processing of filed 2007 tax returns.

“We are processing federal child tax credits and stimulus checks and keeping Governor Fitial’s commitment to the timely release of local CNMI re-

CUC executive director Antonio A. Muna said that, based on the latest Mid Oil Platts Singapore data received from CUC’s fuel supplier, the price per barrel for fuel before freight and other associated charges are added on is averaging \$165 as of June 27, compared to the average \$158 per barrel in May 2008.

“Thus, as long as the price per barrel continues to rise, our consumers are likely to experience the same incline,” said Muna in a statement.

CUC first revised its power rates to

economic census data.

PATRIOTIC-SOUNDING NAMES

31
Number of places nationwide with “liberty” in their name. The most populous one as of July 1, 2006, is Liberty, Mo. (29,581). Iowa, with four, has more of these places than any other state: Libertyville, New Liberty, North Liberty and West Liberty.

■ Thirty-one places are named “eagle”—after the majestic bird that serves as our national symbol. (Places include cities, towns, villages and census-designated places.) The most populous such place is Eagle Pass, Texas, with 26,401 residents.

■ Twelve places have “independence” in their name. The most populous of these is Independence, Mo., with 109,400 residents.

■ Nine places adopted the name “freedom.” Freedom, Calif., with 6,000 residents, has the largest population among these.

■ There is one place named “patriot”—Patriot, Ind., with a population of 192.

LET

From Page 2

damaging to the pension plan.

As of March 2008, the Fund had \$440 million in assets. This year, the Fund is expected to liquidate \$45 million in assets to pay benefits and administrative costs. If drawdowns continue at this rate and the government continues to fail to remit any money to the Fund, the pension program will be bankrupt in fewer than 10 years. *(Agnes E. Donato)*

back across the nation, victims of a sluggish economy, wildfire fears and product shortages caused by a warehouse fire in China.

With Northern California already battling a string of wildfires, fire officials in Scotts Valley, south of San Jose, concluded that going ahead with the annual show would send the wrong message when residents have been asked to refrain from setting off even tiny sparklers in their backyards.

Aside from the fire danger, local governments are also short of money because of the slumping economy. Fireworks supplies are petering out, too, because China is running short of ports from which to ship the dangerous cargoes abroad. *(With AP)*

funds and rebates,” said Inos.

The Fitial administration began releasing local tax rebates last Christmas after receiving an additional \$26 million in federal cover over funds. The administration has reserved a total of \$32 million in federal cover over funds for the release of CNMI rebate and refunds according to CNMI law.

more than double the previous rates on May 3, 2008. This came about after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law the bill that suspends the power rates rollback.

Since March 2008 up to May 2008, residential customers had been paying the lowest rate at 17.6 cents per kWh pursuant to Public Law 15-94.

Residential customers first experienced the lowest fuel rates in October 2007 when P.L. 15-94 took effect, putting a cap at 17.6 cents per kWh.

Cing to contest Crisostimo's bid for delegate post

Federal court revokes probation of man who admitted using 'ice'

The federal court revoked yesterday the probation of a man who was convicted last year of "ice" trafficking.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson revoked Norbert B. Camacho's supervised release for one day after he admitted using methamphetamine or "ice."

Munson placed Camacho on three years of supervised release.

The judge ordered Camacho to enter the Lighthouse Recovery Center in Guam for six months or until deemed rehabilitated by the staff.

Munson said if the defendant leaves the program before the appropriate time, the court will take necessary action to revoke his supervised release.

Camacho was given two weeks to report to LRC. He is prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages until he is

admitted to LRC.

Camacho was one of two men facing separate illegal drugs trafficking cases in federal court.

Camacho was released from prison on Nov. 20, 2007. He completed his home confinement on April 24, 2008.

U.S. Probation Officer Melinda N. Brunson recommended the revocation of defendant's supervised release after he tested positive for "ice" use on four occasions since his release from jail.

In yesterday's revocation hearing, Camacho admitted to the violation.

Munson stated Camacho would either go to prison for six months or he could attend the LRC for six months.

The defendant stated he preferred to go into a recovery program. Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley did not object. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
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REPORTER

Former Tinian Sen. David Cing has announced he will challenge Sen. Luis Crisostimo's bid to run for U.S. congressional delegate under the local Democratic Party.

Cing formally asked the party to support his candidacy on Wednesday evening. He and Crisostimo are expected to face off in a primary later this month.

Asked why he is running, Cing said there is a strong need to get the Northern Marianas represented by a Democrat in the U.S. House of Representatives, since Congress is currently ruled by Democratic Party.

He said a Democratic Party member like himself would be most effective in carrying the Commonwealth's agenda to Congress. A Democratic delegate from the Northern Marianas can be appointed to chair important subcommittees, and can join forces with the mostly Democratic delegates from other insular areas, he said.

At the same time, he said: "To be honest, the salary is very attractive." The Northern Marianas' delegate will receive the



Cing



Crisostimo

same salary — nearly \$170,000 a year—as any member of the U.S. Congress.

According to Cing, Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio may be the most experienced of all the candidates for delegate, but he is with the wrong party. Tenorio will represent the NMI Republican Party in the delegate election.

Cing said that independent candidates, if any of them is elected, will fare worse in Congress. "What can he do for us if he's independent? It's like go-

ing to Congress with the Belize flag," he said.

At least four candidates have expressed their interest in running independent: retired judge Juan T. Lizama, Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan, television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales, and businessman Patrick M. Calvo.

Cing urged voters to look beyond family ties when picking their candidate. "Families are very important here. But when you get to D.C., only political affiliation matters. That's a fact," he said.

Cing was a Tinian senator for 12 consecutive years until he lost to Sen. Henry San Nicolas in the 2003 election.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Joy Market robbery

Crime Stoppers is asking the community for information on any of the individual(s) involved in the recent armed robbery at Joy Market on Beach Road Chalan Kanoa. The crime was reported on Thursday, June 26, 2008 at 6:49pm. According to police, two male individuals armed with a knife and machete robbed the store and fled through the store's back door with an undetermined amount of money and Doral cigarettes.

Suspect No. 1 was described as wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, blue jeans and white tennis shoes. Suspect No. 2 was described as

wearing a long-sleeved white shirt with black stripes, black pants and black slippers. Both wore white cloths over their heads to conceal their face and were described as young adults, possibly locals. According to the victims, the suspects threatened and held them at knife point. This case is under investigation.

Anyone having information about these crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. *(Crime Stoppers)*

Liberation Specials

July 4, 2008 • Immediately after the Parade

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DPL chief erred in mining permit dispute—judge

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has ruled that Public Lands Secretary John S. Del Rosario Jr. erred in his finding that JG Sablan Rock Quarry Inc.'s joint venture agreement with another company violated a provision of its mining permit.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman said that, as a matter of law, the joint venture inked between JGS and Bridgecreek International Corp. failed to constitute an assignment of

permit rights in violation of the mining permit.

"And because the court cannot anticipate the introduction of any new material facts on this issue, it shall adjudicate this claim in favor of JGS and hold that the Secretary of DPL erred in finding that the Joint Venture Agreement violated article 14 of the Mining Permit such that termination was warranted," said Wiseman in his order issued Wednesday.

Article 14 of the permit provides that "This permit or any interest therein shall not be

assigned, or in any way transferred, without first obtaining the prior written consent of the Government. Otherwise, any purported assignment or transfer of this permit, written or verbal, shall be null and void, and of no effect."

In his order, the judge determined that DPL is not entitled to a summary judgment on the issue of whether JGS violated article 14 of the permit.

Because he does not deem it prudent to deprive JGS of a legal theory before a complete record is assembled, Wiseman said he

shall reserve granting summary judgment in DPL's favor.

Wiseman set a status conference in the case on July 10, 2008.

The government sued JGS, asking the court to declare as unconstitutional Public Law 15-21, the law that reinstated JGS's permit to mine pozzolan from Pagan Island. JGS filed a counter lawsuit against DPL.

DPL filed a motion for partial summary judgment on the portions of JGS' administrative complaint which alleges the following:

■ That DPL's determination that JG Sablan's joint venture agreement with Bridgecreek violated Article 14 of the Mining Permit was unlawful.

■ That DPL should be estopped from terminating JGS' mining permit for violation of the permit terms because DPL's predecessor's in interest failed to take similar action when JGS' actions were not in conformity with the permit terms before the termination.

The court heard the motion in August 2007. Assistant attorney general Howard Wil-

lens and deputy attorney general Gregory Baka appeared on behalf of DPL. Attorneys Michael Dotts and Vincent Torres represented JGS.

The issue presented to the court in the motion was whether JGS violated article 14 of the permit when it entered into a joint venture agreement with Bridgecreek such that termination of the mining permit was warranted.

The other issue was whether the doctrines of estoppel or waiver prevent DPL from terminating JGS' mining permit for violations of permit terms when previous administrations failed to sanction JGS for such violations.

DPL argued that JGS' joint venture agreement with Bridgecreek violated the terms of its mining permit because it assigned permit rights to another party without first obtaining the CNMI government's approval.

In response, JGS asserted that such a violation does not warrant terminating the mining permit, but only made any assignment in contravention of the term voidable.

In his decision, Wiseman said he is not convinced that it needs to reach the issue of whether a violation of article 14 of the permit warranted termination because the joint venture agreement with Bridgecreek failed to constitute an assignment of rights to the permit.

Whether taken individually or as a whole, none of the terms of the joint venture agreement between JGS and Bridgecreek creates an assignment of JGS' rights in its permit to another party, he said.

"None of the language extinguishes any right or interest to mine on Pagan that JGS has obtained through the mining permit," he pointed out.

Moreover, Wiseman added, the joint venture agreement "transfers no rights to mine pozzolan on Pagan to Bridgecreek, nor does it create any privity between the governing agency and Bridgecreek."

"The agreement simply creates a business deal between JGS and Bridgecreek, whereby JGS obtains financing and additional support to continue its pursuit to mine pozzolan on Pagan in exchange for certain agreed upon disbursement of revenue," he said.

Wiseman pointed out this is an investment agreement, not an assignment of rights.



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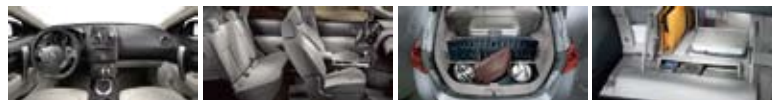
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WWII military dog tag is that of ranking officer

By **FABIAN INDALECIO**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

A circa-World War II U.S. Army Identification Tag belonging to an Alex C. Bouchard was found on Saipan by a local male youngster, Gigo C. Tomokane, who claims he found it in the southern village of San Antonio on Saipan.

Alex C. Bouchard is actually Alexander C. Bouchard, an officer commanding the K

Company, 105th Infantry Regiment, 27 Infantry Division out of New York State. He was born on Sept. 26, 1909, in Gloversville, New York.

During the invasion of Saipan on June 15, 1944, called "Operation Forager," about 71,032 U.S. forces landed and attacked Saipan, with about 31,629 Japanese soldiers defending the island.

At that time, Saipan was considered the Japanese main defense in the Pacific

against America. Records indicate that about 3,100 U.S. soldiers were killed while 29,500 Japanese died during the Battle of Saipan.

According to the book *Campaign in the Marianas* by Philip A. Crowl, on July 5, 1944, Alexander C. Bouchard and his company were operating a major battle against the Japanese in the northern end of Saipan, where the Tanapag Village is now located. It was on that day that Captain Bouchard was mortally wounded. He died two days later, July 7, 1944, and was buried in The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii, on Jan. 10, 1949.

The following paragraph is an actual excerpt from *Cam-*



paign in the Marianas: "On the left of the 3d Battalion, 165th, Company L of the 105th was stopped in its tracks by fire from the opposite side of Hara-kiri Gulch and made no effort to force an entry into the canyon. To its left Company K, 105th,

tried to work its way into the coconut grove, but fire from the uplands on the right interdicted the area, mortally wounding Captain Bouchard. The new company commander, 1st Lt. Roger P. Peyre, then withdrew south of the grove. The 2d Bat-

alion, 105th, had spent the day working its way slowly along the shore line and the coastal plain north of Tanapag. It had mopped up a series of small pill-boxes, most of them abandoned, and had discovered a live mine field directly in the path of its advance. By the end of the day it had not quite reached its scheduled line of departure, although the men had moved almost 800 yards through ground not previously reconnoitered."

According to records, it indicated that Capt. Alexander C. Bouchard's successor, 1st Lt. Roger P. Peyre, was also killed in the Battle of Saipan. Both soldiers' names are inscribed in the American Memorial Park's Court of Honor on Saipan.

DYS summer program application deadline

Hundreds are expected to participate in the Division of Youth Services' Summer Youth Sports and Empowerment Camp that will be held July 14 to Aug. 1, 2008.

Applications are due on July 8, at 4:30pm at the Volunteer Program Office on Capitol Hill, House No. 1340. Registration is \$5.

The one-week day camp will be held July 14-18, from 8am to 11:30am, while a two-week sports camp will be held from July 22, to Aug. 1 (except weekends), from 8am to 11:30am. Participants are to be dropped

off at the Ada Gym at 7:30am. Pickup time is 11:30 am.

The first 200 applicants will be able to join the program. "Right now there are about 50 applicants," said DYS' Zina Nekafis.

Participants will be playing baseball, track, soccer, volleyball, basketball, and badminton, and will learn coconut weaving, sand painting, the basic steps of creating music, making colorful art out of recycled products, and face painting.

Application forms may be picked up at the Ada Gym office. *(Jacqueline Dela Cruz)*

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/s/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board has been changed to July 10, 2008 at 6:00 pm. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of the Department of Public Lands, Joeten Building, DanDan. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

- A. Preliminary Matters: Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes, Communications
- B. Reports: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
- C. Public Hearings: None
- D. Contested Cases: None
- E. Permits and Related Actions - Review and Decide
 1. 2008-0670 Conditional Use Application by GPPC for contractor's office and heavy equipment storage (continued from May 8, 2006 meeting).
 2. 2008-0278 Final Plat Application, Trini Santos, major subdivision, lot 031 F 21.
 3. 2008-0797 Final Plat Application, Rita Cruz, major subdivision, lot 002 C 13.
 4. 2008-0968 Final Plat Application, Rita Cruz, major subdivision, lot 001 C 14.
 5. 2008-0908 Preliminary Plat Application, A. Vekhov, major subdivision, lot TR 2045/08 and TR 2044/08
- F. Old Business
 1. Review proposals for adult business park zoning districts. Decide on publishing proposed regulations to establish adult business park zoning districts.
 2. Amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law and Official Saipan Zoning Maps. Approve amendments to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps. Approve transmittal of proposed Zoning Law amendments to the Legislative Delegation.
 3. Review proposed wind energy system regulation and approve for publication as proposed regulation.
- G. New Business.
 1. Review new proposals for rezones and approve advertising for public comment.
- H. Public Comment
- I. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with legal counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
- J. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

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Nurses association hosts tour of CHC

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

As part of the observance of CNMI Nurses' Week, the Commonwealth Nurses Association toured guests, dignitaries, and officials around the different departments at the Commonwealth Health Center to highlight the important role nurses play in ensuring the health of the community.

Acting Gov. Timothy Villagomez, together with Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Deputy Secretary James Santos, House Health, Welfare and Education Committee chair Rep. Ralph DLG. Torres, Stellar Marianas president Laila Boyer and 2008 Miss Teen CNMI Ariel St. Clair were given a guided tour of the hospital by NMI Nurse Association president Lee Castro, who was joined by other nurses.

The group visited the Emergency Room, Triage, Family Care Clinic, Intensive Care Unit, Pediatric, Surgical unit, OB-Gy-



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez leads a tour of the hospital.

necology ward, Hemodialysis, Operating Room, and the D-side.

As they went through the tour, the group would greet all nurses on duty a "Happy Nurses' Week," much to the appreciation of the nursing staff.

The association reportedly prepared for the event for two months, conducting a series of fundraising events.

"We had a lot of work that needed to be done. We had to start everything. We had no resources and no income. In two months, we had to come out

with a new website and addresses," said Castro. "But with the hard work of a lot of members I think we are really doing well."

The association has been hosting a series of professional development sessions for the nurses to upgrade and enhance their skills. Some of the topics covered included "Wound care and Palliative Care," held on June 30; "Concepts of Wellness and Respiratory Assessment," held on July 1; "Effects of Diabetes on Bones and Safe Staffing Saves Lives," held on July

2; and "Listening to the Heart Murmurs," held July 3.

The association currently has 102 members, while the CNMI itself has about 300 nurses.

"We have about one third of the nurses here," said Castro. The association's goal is 'to give continuing education for the nurses.'

Castro has been the president of the association since April 2008 and is currently the vice president of the American Pacific Nurses Leaders Council since June this year.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 04, 2000

Teno hikes FY 2001 budget

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday hiked up spending level of the courts and the Legislature for the next fiscal year after chopping off initial appropriation for repayment of the anticipated \$60 million bond by the government. Because of the increase, total funding for government operations for FY 2001 is now pegged at \$217.25 million which is up by one million dollars from the initial budget proposal submitted by the governor last April.

Enron, CUC to finalize deal

Negotiations between the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and Texas-based Enron on a final deal on the controversial Saipan power project are expected to begin in the next few weeks as CUC concludes its search for legal counsels. The government-owned utility firm has also begun addressing protests lodged against conditional grant of the estimated \$120 million contract to Enron with letters sent to other bidders informing them of the development, according to officials.

CPA seeks FAA help on flight pattern concerns

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is seeking the assistance of the Federal Aviation Administration in resolving concerns raised on the takeoff and landing patterns of aircraft flying between Saipan and West Tinian International Airports. "We are in the process of consulting with FAA through Guam CERAP and the Flight Standards Office on this matter. Correspondingly, our ability to resolve these concerns depends on their answers," said Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas.

July 04, 2001

NMI faces higher power rates

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is considering raising power rates, as it continues to suffer from an operating deficit of nearly \$3 million. The deficit, which CUC claimed to be triggered by rising fuel prices, has weakened its financial position by \$6 million compared to the same period last year.

Guest workers can stay longer in CNMI

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday gave a significant pre-Liberation Day present to all non-resident workers in the Commonwealth-the suspension of the three-year stay limit law. After months of anticipation, and public pronouncements about his intention, Tenorio yesterday signed into law the bill suspending the implementation of Public Law 11-69 to permit a thorough assessment of its potential impact on the Commonwealth.

Headstart may take kinder pupils

The CNMI Headstart Program is willing to absorb students from the Kindergarten Program but would need the Public School System to provide necessary mechanisms to support the undertaking. Headstart Program Director Dino Taitano, in an interview, yesterday expressed support for a plan by the Board of Education Fiscal and Personnel Committee to transfer five-year-old pupils to Headstart in the event that the Kindergarten Program is terminated in school year 2001-2002.

July 04, 2002

LibDay festivities all set—unless Chataan intervenes

It's a celebration of freedom today as the CNMI commemorate the 56th year of the Northern Marianas' liberation from almost 400 years of colonial rule. "The liberation of our people 56 years ago is a significant milestone. It marks a beginning, after almost 400 years of colonial rule, that we, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands were afforded the opportunity to determine our own political destiny," said Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente in their official public message.

PSS bares baseline data from locally-drafted Reading test

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita H. Inos said the Public School System now holds baseline data that's seen to erase "guessing" in the PSS' continued efforts to improve student achievement-with the newly released results of the locally-made standards-based Reading assessment conducted on 4th, 8th and 11th graders. The PSS Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Office briefed the Board of Education yesterday on the results that illustrated both the strong and weak points of students in the selected grade levels.

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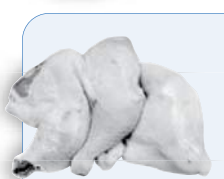
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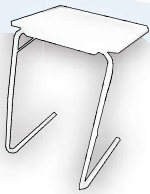


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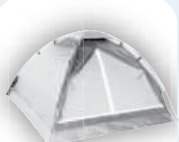
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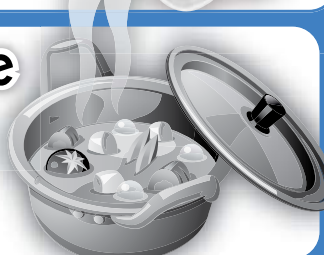
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Opinion

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Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Surrogate silliness

Enough already! The country's at war, the economy is struggling, oil prices are surging. The Republican and Democratic presidential candidates have dramatically different approaches to all this and more. And we've just concluded Day Three of the latest surrogate pseudo-drama: "Gen. Wesley K. Clark: Stupid Comment or Deliberate Slight?"

Casting guilt by surrogate association is a bipartisan affliction, so ours is a nonpartisan lament: Cut it out! The Clark blooper is no more revealing than was the Charles R. Black Jr. pseudo-outrage or the James A. Johnson ersatz scandal. What Gen. Clark had to say—that Sen. John McCain's military experience was not "a qualification to be president"—was stupid, substantively and politically. If Sen. Barack Obama's campaign somehow whispered in Gen. Clark's ear to adopt this approach, the campaign has obviously been taken over by people other than the smooth crew that helped Mr. Obama win the Democratic nomination.

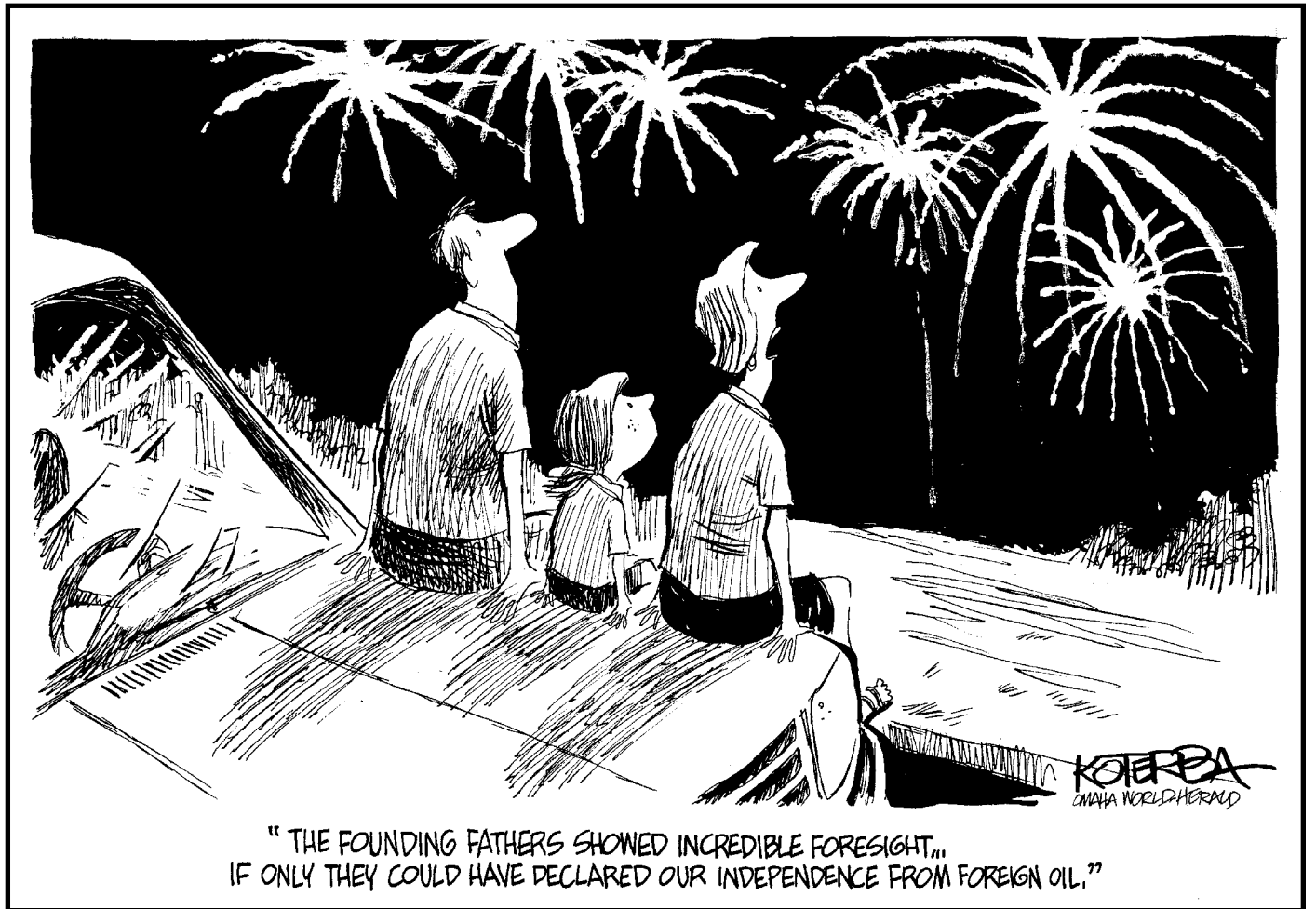
You don't have to be David Axelrod to know that Gen. Clark's remark was not helpful. Mr. Obama isn't going to win a contest over whose wartime service is more relevant or valuable; he's certainly not going to benefit by looking as if he's promoting that line of attack. By the same token, there's also no reason to believe that Gen. Clark's blunder has anything to do with Mr. Obama's fitness for the presidency. Had Mr. Obama not immediately repudiated the comments, that would be noteworthy. Under the circumstances, we find it hard to understand why this was even a one-day story.

We felt the same way about l'affaire Black. Mr. Black's links to Mr. McCain are closer than Mr. Obama's to Gen. Clark. Big deal. Mr. Black made a political observation about the implications of a terrorist incident for the presidential race. He repeated the conventional, albeit debatable, wisdom—that a terrorist attack might help the Republican—but made the mistake of doing so out loud and to a reporter. Big deal. No rational person could possibly think this means that Mr. Black wishes for a pre-election attack, no less Mr. McCain. Again, the comments dominated the news for days.

Ditto Mr. Johnson. Like many people, he made a lot of money at Fannie Mae at a time when its accounting was messed up. As a wealthy person, he got a mortgage that may or may not have been more favorable than the mortgages available to other wealthy people. Mr. Obama handled the controversy clumsily. But, once more, this episode tells us nothing important about Mr. Obama. Mr. Johnson as Washington insider? Please. Mr. Obama sought the help of a Democrat who had experience vetting potential vice presidential running mates. If Mr. Obama needed surgery, what would it say if he picked a doctor who hadn't previously performed the operation he needed?

This might sound awfully quaint. It may be pitifully naive. But would it be too much to ask for just a little more focus on what the candidates themselves have to say—and less on the surrogate bloopers du jour?

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"THE FOUNDING FATHERS SHOWED INCREDIBLE FORESIGHT...
IF ONLY THEY COULD HAVE DECLARED OUR INDEPENDENCE FROM FOREIGN OIL."

A \$5.1 million 'mistake'

In a five-hour session with lawmakers on Monday, when grilled about DCM's contract default with CUC, executive director Tony Muna stated, "We made a mistake. We learned from our lesson, and we're not going to do it again."

A mistake? Mr. Muna, no offense, but this isn't a little bitty mistake. This is a \$5.1 million mistake! And now you want us to believe you "learned your lesson." At whose expense did you learn from this \$5 million faux pas? Will DCM be paying back the \$5 million? Will you, Mr. Muna? Will Governor Fitial? Will Attorney General Matt Gregory? Of course not! It is we, the CNMI taxpayers, who will have to pay the price for this royal screw-up. But what else is new?

What I can't wait to find out about is why DCM was even hired in the first place. Who is DCM? How long have they been in the business of repairing power generators? Was this a sole-source contract? Did you look at their performance and reputation before hiring them? Did their workers really know what they were doing? Why weren't the parts ordered on time and why weren't those generators fixed in the time that was promised? Are you really sure there is no penalty clause? Would you be willing to say that under oath that there is no penalty clause? If there really is no penalty clause, wouldn't that be extremely reckless, to say the very least, on your and Governor Fitial's part? For a multi-million dollar contract, why wouldn't you put in any penalty clause? Is there something going on here that we should know about?

And now, after you admitted to your \$5 million blunder, you want to borrow \$6 million from MPLT to pay Aggreko for back-up generators that may or may not be needed for the entire year? Do you honestly believe that the CNMI public will trust you and Governor Fitial after your DCM fiasco ended up costing the CNMI taxpayers \$5 million?

I have about 147 questions for Mr. Muna and Governor Fitial, but for sake of space and time, I will narrow it down to only nine:

Who are the principle owners of DCM? Is there any truth to the rumor that a former governor of Guam, Mr. Joe Ada, is the principal owner? I didn't see Mr. Ada's name listed as one of the owners. Please, inquiring minds would like to know who exactly owns DCM. Doesn't the public have a right to know who the DCM owners are so that we can ensure that complete fairness was applied and that there were no special considerations made? Let's squash any rumors so that the CNMI people can be assured that DCM was chosen because it has the best generator mechanics in the entire Pacific and gave us the very best price. Can you assure the public that this is why DCM was chosen? By the way, when exactly was this contract approved and how many other bidders were there? Were all procurement regulations followed or was this another "emergency" contract that was sole-sourced?

Mr. Muna, why did you state there are no penalty clauses for DCM? For your information, I looked at a copy of the contract. I could have sworn I saw penalty clauses in there. Are you sure

By ED PROPST

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed Propst is the publisher of MP Magazine.



there are no penalty clauses, because I can assure you that the legislative oversight hearings will find out if in fact there were penalty clauses. If you are right and I am wrong and there are no penalty clauses, don't you think you will be grilled as to *why* there were no penalty clauses put in place for a multi-million dollar contract? What will be your answer? That it was another mistake? How many mistakes will be made at the expense of our people? Could all these mistakes have something to do with incompetence, or is it just bad luck?

Do you honestly believe in your heart that after your \$5 million mistake, the CNMI should entrust you with a \$6 million contract for back-up generators? In all honesty, you are a businessman. If you had an employee who cost your company \$5 million, would you allow him to continue to work for you? Be honest now.

Did you know that former CUC executive director Ramon "Kumoi" Guerrero found a number of flaws in the Aggreko contract? Did you know that Aggreko uses high-speed generators? Without any knowledge or technical experience and expertise with utilities, how can you make heads or tails out of any utilities contract that comes before you? Would you honestly be able to scrutinize a deal or contract and be able to find its flaws?

Why are you ignoring Telesource's offer if they are willing to do it for half the price? Why can't you do a new RFP and give all new and existing contractors the opportunity to bid? Wouldn't that be better for all of us?

Do you honestly believe CUC can pay back MPLT? If CUC cannot even pay for fuel or money already owed to vendors, how in the world is CUC going to suddenly turn over a profit and pay back MPLT with interest? Congressman Ray Yumul and other lawmakers question the legitimacy and constitutionality of the loan. Will your Attorney General be willing to state that it is perfectly fine for CUC to borrow money from MPLT? Attorney General Matt Gregory, what say you?

Do you honestly think you can get back-up generators from Aggreko without raising our power rates once again? Let me re-emphasize that back-up generators would never even be needed if you did your homework and hired the very best company to fix our generators in the first place.

Is it true that DCM hired some of Felipe Atalig's former employees? If DCM knew what they were doing, why would they need to

See MISTAKE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How to negotiate!

If you spend any time at all in business or finance, you've been up to your neck in "negotiators" and "negotiations." And even normal folk who don't dirty their hands with commerce are confronted with a never ending stream of how-to books on negotiating that wash up on the shores of bookshelves seemingly every day. (Funny thing about those books: The price isn't negotiable.)

Well, as usual, I'm living in my aberrant little node of society's periphery, because I'll tell you this: I loathe negotiating. Negotiating is (usually) just haggling. I sure hope that, at the end of this rutted and twisted road of life, nobody says about me, "That Ed, you know, he sure knew how to haggle. He had a low cunning that couldn't be beat."

I don't think anyone will ever say that about me. I'm safe on that count.

Habitual hagglers are usually nasty, petty little people who simply want to indulge their urge to get the best of somebody else.

I can think of all sorts of personal anecdotes for this, from the boardroom to the street, so I'll take the street angle on this one since it's the most memorable.

One evening I was strolling around an outdoors market in Chiang Mai, Thailand, half-shopping and half-loitering. Soon, my ears were assaulted with about two million shrill, nasal decibels of American English. Thereupon I spied a tourist woman being as nasty as possible to a poor old Thai lady who was vending decorative fans (the

kind you hang on the wall).

The tourist was obviously relishing her "negotiations." I don't remember the amounts involved, but, in U.S. terms, the fans cost roughly a dollar. Or maybe 80 cents. Somewhere around there. For a cute hand-painted souvenir of Thailand. Who can argue with that?

Well, you can probably guess who.

The gentle old Thai lady, wearing the wrinkles of hard toil on her aged face, politely held her ground. The hideous tourist beast would storm away, then, like a shark determined to devour its pound of flesh, would circle back and start berating the old Thai all over again.

All this activity was centered on a bid vs. ask spread (to put things in stock terms) of about 15 cents. You read that right: Fifteen cents.

Up until that point, I didn't like hagglers, or negotiators, but seeing such a raw display of the naked psychology was enlightening. The triviality of the money is what made the lesson so rich. The money wasn't the issue for the tourist, of course, she was probably expending more than 15 cents worth of calories by her exertions.

What was on display was the clear, instinctive urge to make the weaker party (the old Thai) suffer. To lose. To be bested. And it was being done for recreation, no less.

This scene dragged on for a solid five minutes, if not longer. I stuck around just to watch it.

But I'm happy to report that the old Thai couldn't be bullied. Finally, the beastly American marched off, muttering, loudly, about

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and Saipan-Blog.com.



those "ungrateful Thais turning down perfectly good money."

Moving from the street scene to bigger stakes, my disinclination to haggle hasn't waned over the years. When I'm selling my services, I'm not engaged in some elaborate head-game. And when I'm buying stuff, I have no desire to force a seller into an uncomfortable position.

Talk about a topsy-turvy spin on price theory: When my pals and I buy and sell stuff to each other, the buyer is always trying to increase the price, and the seller trying to reduce it. This doesn't mean we're saints. We most certainly are not. But we're all hard workers, and determined not to engage in opportunism or parasitism.

Sure, sometimes, negotiating just has to happen. And, sure, in some societies, market bargaining is a part of normal life.

But with prosperous people from rich societies, the urge to haggle has more to do with base psychology than high finance.

Letter to the Editor

Lackluster performance

The recent news about the lackluster performance by Tinian's incumbent elected leadership on the completion of the Tinian International Airport has been eye-opening, to say the least. Followed by today's revelation that the total anticipated gaming revenues for the Tinian Municipal Fund are expected to fall to \$3.2 million from a high of \$5.7 million, the people of Tinian are finally learning the truth about the island's total lack of progress.

It has been previously reported that the Mayor of Tinian has been incapable of producing an accounting of the \$10 million his administration has expended from the Tinian Municipal Fund for the two and one half years he has been in office. It has also been previously reported that there is apparently no intention on the part of the Tinian Legislative Delegation or the Tinian Municipal Council to do anything about it. This is not surprising, considering that the Mayor of Tinian controls the Tinian Covenant Party and the Tinian Legislative Delegation as well as the Tinian Municipal Council are controlled by the Tinian Covenant Party.

The residents of Tinian, who are still holding onto business plans in anticipation of regularly scheduled international flights arriving at the Tinian West Field International Airport, now know they can put them back in the closet for at least the next year and a half. That is the minimum time necessary to construct the fuel farm, which we now know hasn't even been looked at. Point is, the people of Tinian can anticipate that no regularly scheduled jet aircraft full of tourists will land on Tinian by the end of this administration. Revenues may continue to decline. We can only hope that the Dynasty can survive until new leadership takes control.

If I may be so bold as to suggest to my friends on Rota, there are some serious lessons to be learned from the gross mistakes made by the current elected Tinian leadership. In order to protect the people,

to whom the Municipal Fund belongs, it is imperative that the municipality has an independent Municipal Public Auditor, distinctly separate from the Mayor's office. The Municipal Treasurer must submit monthly itemized expenditure reports to the Public Auditor, or face serious sanctions. The Municipal Public Auditor must balance the mayor's accounts and make the findings public within 30 days. This will ensure that the mayor cannot expend funds on frivolous vote-buying schemes.

The local budget must be submitted by the mayor to the Municipal Council in a timely fashion, just as the governor is supposed to submit a budget to the CNMI House of Representatives. The Municipal Council is then responsible for holding adequate public hearings, finalizing the budget, and submitting it to the Legislative Delegation for appropriation. If the Mayor cannot submit a budget within the timeframe established by the Municipal Charter, then the Municipal Council becomes responsible for creating a budget. This then requires that the Municipal Council must be clearly separated from the political arena. A Municipal Council member cannot be employed in any way by any political office.

Finally, there must be no continuation clause in the budget. If the budget is not signed by the beginning of the succeeding fiscal year, then there can be no expenditures from the fund until one is passed, and there will be no retroactive salaries paid to elected officials for the time there is no budget.

For the history of Tinian, the legacy of the Covenant Party looks bleak. Two and one half years ago, the Covenant Party swept the Tinian island elections. Jose P. San Nicolas, owner of Tinian's inter-island shipping monopoly, became Mayor of Tinian. His son became chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation. Freshman Sen. Joseph Mendiola was catapulted to the presidency of the Sen-

ate. The mayor hired the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Ports Authority to be his financial adviser. With the leader of the Covenant Party sitting in the governor's chair, and the chairman of the CPA board sitting at their right hand, the Tinian elected leadership had a unique opportunity to force the complete development of the Tinian International Airport. Instead, they invested in travel and vote-buying schemes. By the end of their first two years in office, they were only able to produce a letter to DOI, requesting the re-appropriation of CIP funds to support the airport's development. Now, six months after DOI approved the re-appropriation, Ms. Desposa has exposed that the Tinian elected leadership has completely dropped the ball on both the ILS and the fuel farm.

The people of Tinian are no closer to their dream of economic prosperity today than they were two years ago. The sad part of it is that if they had focused on completing the airport development at the beginning of their administration, jet aircraft would already be landing on Tinian, the Tinian Municipal Fund would be growing and private sector jobs would be available. With the Dynasty Hotel full and the Bridge Investment Group in full swing, not only would the people of Tinian benefit, but also needed revenues would be generated for the CNMI general fund. Instead, the people that the mayor, the delegation and the council have hired are facing a dubious future and revenues to the general fund are declining. Instead of being in a win-win situation, the Tinian elected leadership has put the island into a lose-lose mode.

The most frustrating part of this entire scenario is that the first ray of hope for Tinian is still 18 months away.

Don A. Farrell

Marpo Heights, Tinian

MISTAKE

From Page 10

hire Mr. Atalig's employees?

This is my last but most important question. Governor Fital and Mr. Muna, you both seem to take great pride in your business acumen. If you had a company that was performing poorly primarily due to mismanagement, misspending, and general incompetence, and you hired a CEO to make things better, would you fire that CEO if after more than two years on the job, the company got worse and was teetering toward bankruptcy? What if this CEO made a promise to you to deliver "Better Times" when you interviewed him initially? Would you or would you not fire him? My guess is, you would have fired him within his first year on the job if things got worse instead of better. Point of this question? Be very thankful you have been given four years to serve the people of the CNMI, but do not expect us to reward you with another four years after you have given our people nothing but a very dismal, uninspiring performance. There will be no curtain calls for this administration, I can assure you of that.

My dear brothers and sisters of the CNMI, if there ever was a time to stop a train wreck from happening, it is *right now*!

Here is what must happen immediately:

DCM needs to *pay their penalty clause*! If they don't, then we sue them! Why not? Governor Fital loves to sue! I don't care who they are, if DCM defaulted on their contract with CUC, then we sue them and take back our money! We don't need to hire a private attorney. We have Attorney General Matt Gregory to lead us! What do you say Matt? The truth is, after coming off the heels of a \$5 million "mistake," we all must do everything in our power to stop a \$6 million mistake from taking place with Aggreko.

Mr. Muna and Governor Fital must apologize to the people of the CNMI for their \$5 million boo-boo. Perhaps a just punishment would be to have them write 500 times on a blackboard, "I will not hire incompetent companies" or "I will not misspend the CNMI's money because it is not my money to begin with."

Start a new RFP if we absolutely must get back-up generators so CUC will benefit from the very best possible deal. After all, no matter how you look at it, we are the ones who will be paying for it in the form of another increase in our utility rates.

I am asking every person who reads this to help stop this Aggreko

deal from happening. As much as we need and deserve stable power, this is not the right way to go about doing it. Affordable power is as important as reliable power to most rate payers these days, and if the Aggreko deal pushes through, *I promise the CNMI people will end up paying more than we should*! No more *biba korruption* tactics! Our people have suffered enough!






In the meantime, I will be pushing for a popular initiative to *have an attorney general elected*. Judging by this current AG's non-performance, I believe the CNMI needs to elect an attorney general so he or she may remain fair and impartial in all cases, especially when it relates to matters dealing with the governor of the CNMI. No one should ever be above the law. But when the attorney general acts as a rubber stamp to a governor and refuses to go against him (because he is really just a political appointee), you create an atmosphere where the governor is in fact above the law.

Let us work together in restoring our government. This administration must adhere to the will of the people. Let us put an end to the long-standing practice of serving the few while neglecting the many. A new, prosperous CNMI awaits all of us, but it will never happen unless the majority of us come together and think and act as advocates for change.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78	▲88° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85 ▼76

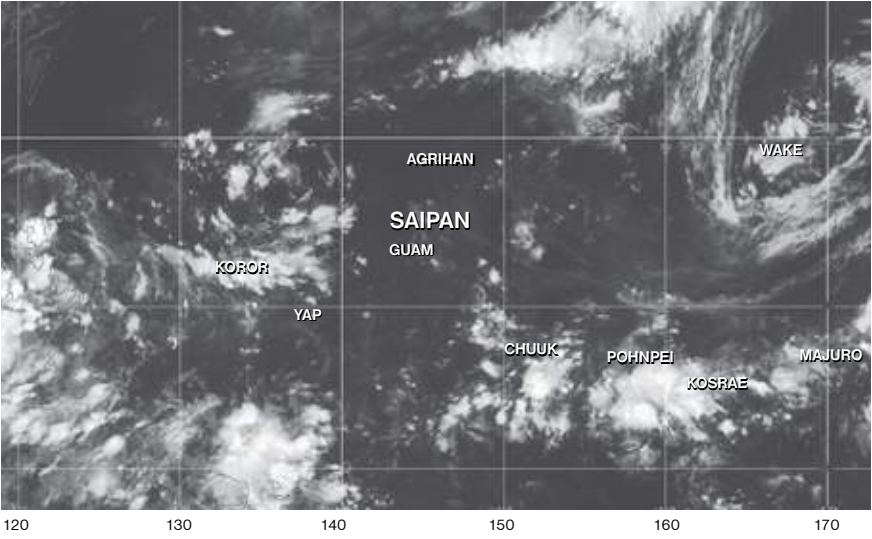
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲59 ▼45
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲93 ▼72
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲91 ▼79
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲82 ▼75
London	Cloudy	▲72 ▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82 ▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲82 ▼66
Osaka	Cloudy	▲85 ▼70
Paris	Cloudy	▲73 ▼58
Pusan	Cloudy	▲81 ▼71
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲87 ▼66
Salem	Cloudy	▲76 ▼56
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲71 ▼56
Seoul	Cloudy	▲88 ▼68
Tokyo	Showers	▲84 ▼70
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼70

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:24AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:08AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:47PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
10:01PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging winds south of a cold front north of the discussion area is triggering scattered showers north of the Marianas but over Minami Tori Shima within 80 miles of a line from 21N130E to 25N155E. A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 9N130E to near Koror at 7N136E and turns southward to end at EQ137E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring along the trough axis south of Koror between 2N and 6N from 134E to 140E. A surface trough reaches northwestward from EQ150E to 11N146E and turns northeastward to 15N149N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are forming along the trough axis just east of Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan within 60 miles of a line from 12N146E to 16N148E and near the equator within 80 miles of a line from EQ150E to 5N149E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over a large area from southeast of Pohnpei and northeastward across Kosrae and Majuro to the dateline. This area is within 100 miles of a line from 2N159E to 10N180. Similar weather is also found southeast to northeast of Pohnpei within 60 miles of a line from 5N159E to 8N161E to 11N159E and northwest within 50 miles of 9N156E. A large upper low is centered northeast of Wake Island near 20N170E. Scattered showers and mid to high level cloudiness associated with this system are seen over Wake Island between 15N and 23N from 164E to 176E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51AM	6:52 PM
Saturday	5:52AM	6:52 PM
Sunday	5:52AM	6:52 PM
Monday	5:52AM	6:52 PM
Tuesday	5:52AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:42AM	8:04PM
Saturday	7:46AM	8:53PM
Sunday	8:46AM	9:37PM
Monday	9:41AM	10:16PM
Tuesday	10:33AM	10:53PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 4, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:55am 2:00pm Daily NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:55pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:30am+1 Daily NW 100 8:45pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:05pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:55am 11:35am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:20pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letter to the Editor

Justice for Grande!

I am writing to request assistance from the general public for anyone who knows what happened and or what led to the death of Grande Nonan. Grande was killed on Isa Drive, Sadog Tasi on Sunday, May 4, 2008.

Grande has been with our family for over a decade, he was a very good worker, and he got along with everyone instantly. Grande was a jack-of-all trades, just as Fr. Jesse Reyes mentioned during his homily at the Holy Mass offered during Grande's viewing. He became really close to my father, the Late Captain Vicente M. Concepcion and was my father's fishing partner. Now, we know that both my beloved father and Grande are fishing in heaven.

Today, July 4, would be exactly two months (60 days) since Grande was killed. There have

been many hardships our family, and his family, have endured with Grande's passing. We lost a great worker and a good friend. None of us will see his smiling face, or his eagerness to help you with any task you give him. He made friends with many of our repeat customers at the beachside. He has gone fishing numerous times with my brother, Capt. Lawrence, and also with my husband, Capt. Ray.

The reason I write this letter today is to urge anyone with information to please come forward and tell the police. The hardest thing to comprehend is how can someone kill a person and live with their conscience? How can you knowingly live, day by day, night by night, knowing you killed a human being? Different scenarios run through my mind, thinking that

the driver was probably way too drunk to even know they killed a person. But what about when they woke up the next morning? What about when they saw that their front end of the vehicle was damaged? What about the friends that know of damage to a car matching the description? What about the person or auto shop that repaired the damaged vehicle? Or, what if the auto shop changed the date on when the vehicle was received? What about the insurance adjuster that cannot pay for a claim that does not have a police report? Or was the vehicle repaired? What if the vehicle is hidden somewhere and someone knows about it, but isn't reporting it? What if Grande stayed home that early morning, would that have happened? What if Grande wasn't

See **JUSTICE** on Page 15



SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

2004 RAV-4 4DR. 4WD
Auto, Beige, Stock: U07-007T
License: ACB-455
Mileage: 41649
Price: ~~\$15,699~~

REDUCED PRICE
\$14,999



USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
U08-017P	2002	AVALON 4DR.	AUTO	34812	BEIGE	ABW-469	\$14,699	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	\$15,999	

GM CARS								
U08-039P	2002	ECHO 4DR SDN	AUTO	49698	RED	ABP-054	\$4,399	
R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	\$9,599	\$7,599
R08-005F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	114073	BLUE	ACB-544	\$6,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	\$9,599	\$7,599
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	\$9,599	\$7,599
U08-032R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	27339	WHITE	ACD-506	\$8,699	
U08-033R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	21118	BEIGE	ACD-486	\$8,699	
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	\$10,999	\$9,499

LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	\$29,999	\$28,999

TOYOTA TRUCKS								
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	\$11,899	\$10,999
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	\$12,499	\$11,999

OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	\$9,999	\$7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	\$9,999	\$7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	\$10,999	\$8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	\$16,799	\$15,299
U08-035T	2000	NISSAN ALTIMA GXE 4DR SDN	AUTO	64846	GREEN	ABS-748	\$6,999	
U08-038T	2001	NISSAN MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	\$7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENNIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	\$7,999	\$7,099

GM SPORT UTILITY								
U08-036T	2002	TRAILBLAZER 4 WD	AUTO	36460	RED	ACB-993	\$9,999	

SPORT UTILITY								
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAGNE	ABY-153	\$14,599	\$12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	\$13,699	\$12,799
U07-007T	2004	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	41649	BEIGE	ACB-455	\$15,699	\$14,999
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR. 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	\$19,195	\$19,099



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INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMHC IFB 08-013

This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.

NMHC IFB08-013

Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Thursday, June 26, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office on Thursday, July 10, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC Corporate Director at P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, July 11, 2008.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB08-013**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time **Monday, July 21, 2008**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time, **Monday, July 21, 2008**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 21, 2008**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **July 30, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **8:00 a.m.**, local time, **July 31, 2008**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m.**, local time on **July 21, 2008**.

All labor on this project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$4.05 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor, whichever is higher.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Saipan.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"



**COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES
FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2008**

CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATIONS	MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGES (FIXED)	RATES PER KILOWATT-HOUR (kWh)		
		ELECTRIC NON-FUEL RATES (FIXED)	ELECTRIC FUEL RATES (FLUCTUATES)	TOTAL RATES PER kWh
RESIDENTIAL	\$ 5.60			
1. First 500 kWh (1 To 500)		\$ 0.016	\$ 0.413	\$ 0.429
2. Second 500 kWh (501 To 1,000)		0.066	0.413	0.479
3. Next 1,000 kWh (1,001 To 2,000)		0.086	0.413	0.499
4. All kWh After 2,000 (Over 2,000)		0.127	0.413	0.540
COMMERCIAL (All kWh Billed)	\$ 7.67	\$ 0.086	\$ 0.413	\$ 0.499
GOVERNMENT (All kWh Billed)	\$ 7.67	\$ 0.091	\$ 0.413	\$ 0.504
NON-CONFORMING LOAD (All kWh Billed)	\$ 56.00	\$ 0.222	\$ 0.413	\$ 0.635

HISTORY OF ELECTRIC FUEL RATES:

JANUARY 07	\$ 0.196	NOVEMBER 07	\$ 0.176
FEBRUARY 07	\$ 0.188	(RES. ONLY 11/1/07)	
MARCH 07	\$ 0.188	NOVEMBER 07	\$ 0.258
APRIL 07	\$ 0.191	(RES. ONLY 11/2 - 30/07)	
MAY 07	\$ 0.222	NOVEMBER 07 (ALL OTHERS)	\$ 0.258
JUNE 07	\$ 0.221	DECEMBER 07	\$ 0.258
JULY 07	\$ 0.223	JANUARY 08	\$ 0.258
AUGUST 07	\$ 0.223	FEBRUARY 08	\$ 0.253
SEPTEMBER 07	\$ 0.228	MARCH 08 (RES. ONLY)	\$ 0.176
OCTOBER 07	\$ 0.228	MARCH 08 (ALL OTHERS)	\$ 0.288
(RES. ONLY, 10/1 - 3/07)		APRIL 08 (RES. ONLY)	\$ 0.176
OCTOBER 07	\$ 0.176	APRIL 08 (ALL OTHERS)	\$ 0.327
(RES. ONLY, 10/4 - 31/07)		MAY 08 (RES. ONLY, UP TO 5/2/08)	\$ 0.176
OCTOBER 07 (ALL OTHERS)	\$ 0.228	MAY 08 (RES. ONLY, 5/3 - 31/08)	\$ 0.357
		MAY 08 (ALL OTHERS)	\$ 0.357
		JUNE 08	\$ 0.387

Letter to the Editor

The mess at CUC

Editor's Note: The following letter is being published as a series due to its length.

Fourth of a five-part series

At the same time, CUC had received other proposals on hand since August 8, 2007, notably one from JET Consulting (Juan Santiago, the former chairman of CDA, with whom I have some significant difference in opinions and personalities). JET, in conjunction with some world-class professionals including consulting experts to ABB (the world largest power distribution company) and SMEC (a top 100 internal engineering consulting firm), forewarned CUC that detailed testing and inspections of the engines and determination of parts are critical for successful scheduling and completion of the rehabilitation of Power Plant I. I was provided a copy of their submission for review. Juan Santiago's team was concerned that CUC was rushing into a critical job without sufficient planning.

It also appeared that JET's team knew that there was a critical need for the cooling systems to be repaired first so that any rehabilitated engine would not be subsequently damaged by the debilitated cooling system, and that parts needed have not

been identified and would take time to procure. JET offered to manage the rehabilitation process, and in my mind, their proposal would have worked and CUC would not be in such a mess today.

CUC executed a contract with DCM despite having documentation that would question (1) DCM's claims that they have available parts when the original manufacturer, Mitsubishi, has submitted in writing that they won't be available for 200 days, (2) the significant difference in Mitsubishi's recommendations versus that of DCM (3) the need for the cooling system to be in working order as a priority as detailed by JET (4) and the questionable listing of parts required as itemized by DCM where the parts costs are similar for the engines with the same capacity (5) and DCM's lack of qualifications and experience versus other offerors (5) and the clearly dissimilar approach offered by JET and Mitsubishi.

The contract with DCM is very specific. In the contract, DCM claimed that they have readily available all necessary personnel, resources, tools and parts necessary to execute the contract as described in this excerpt of Section 1 of the Agreement:

1. Scope of Services. The Commonwealth Utilities Cor-

poration requires the expeditious completion of the following scope of work which the contractor understands and represents that it has readily available, the necessary expertise, training, knowledge, parts, materials and equipment, manpower; and capacity to perform for the fee stated. See "Exhibit A".

The contract required DCM to furnish parts (OEM) and specialized services to complete Engines No 7, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 5 in 90 days, in Phase (A). Also in the contract with DCM, the penalties for non-performance, are as follows:

■ For each engine: Units 1 - 4—\$91.03 per kW of capacity not achieved

Where the agreed capacity to be achieved is 6.543 MW.

■ For each engine: Units 5 - 8—\$66.68 per kW of capacity not achieved.

Where the agreed capacity to be achieved is 11.736MW.

My question is whether Mr. Muna has been correctly reported that there are no penalty clauses in the DCM contract. Perhaps Mr. Muna chose to interpret that such penalties are only due after the completion of overhaul. However, in my opinion, DCM's timeline for completion is long passed, and overhauls should have been completed and penalties applied for non-performance. As of June 23, 2008, the only engines operating at Power Plant I are Engine No. 2 and Engine

See THE MESS on Page 16

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225X60R15	MAXXIS	\$60.00
225X70R15	MAXXIS	\$60.00
235X70R15	MAXXIS	\$60.00
225X70R16	MAXXIS	\$70.00
225X75R16	MAXXIS	\$70.00
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NMC-CREES 234 - 5498 ext 1707

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This workshop is conducted in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Educational programs are open to all regardless of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion or handicap.

Letter to the Editor

What's at stake in the marine monument proposal

There's far more at stake in the disagreement between those who support the Marianas Trench monument and those who don't than the issue of whether federal involvement is good or bad, whether future mining of manganese nodules will provide more revenue than a sea park and a visitors center, whether local fishing will be permitted or not, whether local custom will be ignored or not, whether the respect for land will be honored or not, whether

commercial fishing should be allowed or not, whether locals will have a role in its governance or not.

Which is not to say that those are not matters of real concern, worth researching, discussing, debating, worth trying to resolve.

However, the fundamental, underlying issue is far more crucial, with far greater implications than such localized concerns. Basically, at the heart of the disagreement is the question

of whether our grandchildren, and their grandchildren, will ever see a whale or a tuna or a dolphin or a sea horse or an eel or a porpoise or an anemone or a swordfish or a manta ray or a turtle or a starfish or a conch or an oyster or a salmon—whether they will ever see marine life—except in pictures in a book, in a film, on a video.

The seas, and their marine life are being raped, if you will, destroyed and decimated, by people who are more interested

JUSTICE

From Page 13

killed by a hit and run? What about the other people that drove by that time, who know of something but are scared to tell? What about eyewitnesses and

where are they? What about, what about, what about???

There are numerous "what abouts" that go through my mind and in the minds of his family and friends, but the question is, *What if you know something*, what are you going to do about it? I hope that someone out there knows

something about Grande's death and that they report it to the police. Call Crime Stoppers at 234-7272, you can remain anonymous. It is my hope that we can bring justice to Grande and to his family.

Marianne C. Teregeyo
via e-mail

in earning a dollar today than in what happens in the future. Commercial fishing has become so technically efficient that the normal life cycle of marine life is no longer able to replace what's been taken, and fish stocks are declining worldwide. The "by-catch" (turtles, dolphins, non-target fish) from the use of long-lines, purse seines, drift nets has been equally destructive. Reports from all over the world report on the disappearance of marine species, the smaller size and shrinking numbers of survivors.

In the U.S., commercial fishing is controlled by regional fishery councils who set catch limits, set boundaries, define fishing techniques. In theory, these councils, established under U.S. law, were supposed to "manage" marine life in a sustainable manner, so species did not disappear, fish stock did not diminish. But there have been few, if any, conservationists,

among the councils' members. The councils, backed by major financial interests, are concerned only with maximizing "take"—how many fish can be taken from the sea and sold at a profit, and have managed to form a wealthy, influential lobby.

In the CNMI, the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council, one of only a few whose entire membership represents fishing interests (rather than including sport fisheries and conservation interests) is opposed to the designation of the waters surrounding the CNMI's three northernmost islands as a marine monument because that jeopardizes its control over those waters. WESPAC members have lobbied extensively both here and in Washington against CNMI's proposed marine monument. Unfortunately, CNMI's leaders appear to have succumbed to that lobbying and have gone on record objecting to the monument declaration—

which does not bode well for positive action from the federal government—unless the President and his advisors can be made to realize just what is happening.

The issue, in other words is whether fishery councils, WESPAC among them, should be allowed to continue their destructive practices of destroying the world's marine resources, or whether sanctuary-type reserves—as is being proposed for the CNMI—where fish stock and marine life would be able to re-establish healthy populations, should be established.

Letters to the President, to his Council on Environmental Quality and its director, to the Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of Interior, voicing support for the Marianas Marine Trench Monument, might help.

Some useful addresses:
■ President George W. Bush, The White House, 1600 Washington
See **WHAT'S** on Page 17

*Remembering our heroes
who have fought
in the name of liberty.*

*Freedom is worth fighting for
and worth any sacrifice.
On behalf of First Hawaiian Bank,
Happy Liberation Day!*



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We say Yes

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2004 Honda Civic DX
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\$12,995^{00*}



2005 Ford Mustang
STOCK # 55105436

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2005 Ford Ranger
STOCK # 5PA78255

\$12,995^{00*}



2005 Honda Accord EX
STOCK # 5A068921

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2005 Nissan Pathfinder SE 4x4
STOCK # 5C702102

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2006 Honda Civic LX
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2005 Nissan 350Z
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Letter to the Editor

Federalization lawsuit vs common sense

The private sector is being mentioned as the one paying for Governor Fitial's proposed lawsuit against the U.S. Congress and President Bush's Administration for enacting Public Law 110-229, which included the CNMI Immigration's federalization and the creation of a CNMI Delegate to the U. S. Congress. I find the filing of a lawsuit before the alleged damage or injuries taking place to be rather presumptuous and most certainly without merit. How can you file a lawsuit for damage or injuries to our economy when *nothing* has yet to occur as a result of the law? T

On the contrary, what has consistently occurred over the years and even up to this day is the

continuing deterioration of our way of life due to not only the dismal and serious nose-diving economy but also due to misguided government policies on economic, political and social development of our Commonwealth. These frustrating and disturbing events are happening now in the CNMI despite the fact that the federal government has *not* yet taken over control of our local immigration authority. All the adversities being alleged as a result of federalization are *already* happening and the feds are not here yet!

Why is the Governor lying to us and himself by claiming that our economy has been negatively impacted or even destroyed because of immigration federal-

ization when the law was only recently enacted and before the rules and regulations are implemented? People know that the answer is political grandstanding and the sad part is too many people bought into this political ploy and two of them even want to be the first delegate-not getting my vote.

A *real* politician would know the lawsuit poses a counterproductive inhibitor with no solution to the issue of federalization. It is far more prudent to wait for the regulations to be implemented and then measure the injuries or damage if the Governor is so sure they will occur. The governor can then have his day in court after the legislative oversight process fails.

To believe in the Governor and the lawsuit, you would have to believe that after the oversight process in Congress, the Governor will be able to have his day in court to piss and moan about how the United States has been so inhumane for implementing

federal immigration law and he could even demand billions of dollars as compensation for damages to citizens and businesses.

In fact, if the Governor would wait, his lawsuit will have a bit of credibility if he can prove *beyond a reasonable doubt* that the implementation of the immigration law and the failure of the oversight process will cause chaos and calamity to our *great and flourishing economy* that has the *best immigration and labor policies in the world* at a time when we are at war with terrorism. I'm sure people can see the ridiculousness of this lawsuit. Just because you have a right to sue doesn't mean your lawsuit is right but that's what happens when lawyers start dictating government policy—we get a lot of lawsuits and fewer solutions for the people.

A lawsuit against the federal government can take *years* to even reach the court and maybe another year or more for a deci-

sion. The lawsuit will have to go to the U. S. Supreme Court and the chance of that are slim and none and we will still be sitting in the dark and in a state of despair when the Governor should have been trying to use the many avenues at his disposal for reconciliation and negotiations for a meaningful solution to our differences with the federal government. A lawsuit is also an insult to the Covenant and to the people who voted to become a Commonwealth of the United States. How can you fight being what you asked to be? It doesn't make any sense and it should be obvious that a lawsuit is not an immediate solution to our problems. The lawsuit may even exacerbate the enmity that already exists between the federal government and some CNMI officials. Whatever happened to following the "oversight" process of federal laws that we pledged to do when we became a Commonwealth?

Suing for "economic injuries"

that *have not* yet occurred does not make common sense when the injuries to be evaluated for a determination on how much to ask for in the suit have not yet occurred. It is too early to think about suing for damages. We could even shortchange ourselves by asking for a lesser amount than the actual damages, that is, if the injuries even occur. We must also prove the injuries and given our poor tracking, documentation and analysis of systemic issues affecting the CNMI, we won't have very much concrete proof—just a lot of finger pointing.

Filing a lawsuit against the feds when we are asking for help and need their help with the many problems we created on our own is simply an *awful* political strategy with poor foresight. Instead of creating a better working relationship with the federal government we are injecting an inhibitor in the form of a lawsuit in a very prejudicial

See **LAWSUIT** on Next Page

THE MESS

From Page 14

No. 3. It is simple mathematics—the penalties payable is \$4,000,753.79

The only sensible way out is to terminate the contract for default. Hence, on this front, Mr. Muna has taken that initiative. It remains to be seen whether the penalties stipulated in the contract will be imposed. The difficulty in imposing the penalty, in my opinion, is not a question of legality, it is a question of will. Now, if CUC is so willing to forego \$4,000,753.79 against an overseas contractor who did not perform according to the contract, why is CUC so diligent in cutting off the power of our residents when some of the bills are less than \$100? On top of that, CUC paid them \$410,000

in April when it was clear there was no progress in the performance of their contract, and default was inevitable.

There is another highly suspect contract, reported by Greg Cruz of Tao Tao Tano. I was also provided a copy of such document which demonstrates a *sole source* contract for CISCO, executed in May 2006 and mobilization paid, but until today no parts have been delivered for Power Plant II. Why no default has been issued for such delayed work remains a mystery. As to why Secretary Inos asked me in December 2007 to submit a proposal for Power Plant II when they already had a contract executed with CISCO is also a mystery to me.

To be continued.

Ramon S. Guerrero
As Perdido, Saipan

COMMONWEALTH
PORTS AUTHORITYREQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES

SERVICES REQUIRED

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), a public corporation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is inviting interested insurance brokers, singularly or in partnership with others, to submit technical proposals for providing insurance brokerage services to CPA. Interested insurance brokers must be licensed in the Northern Mariana Islands and have a current business license.

THE PROCESS

The process will consist of the receipt and evaluation of sealed proposals for technical services. The proposals should demonstrate the ability of the brokers to perform and provide the services enumerated in the Scope of Services stipulated in the Request For Proposal (RFP). At the conclusion of the evaluation process, the highest rated broker will be selected to negotiate fees for services with CPA. If successful, the broker will be appointed as CPA's exclusive insurance representative on a year-to-year basis for a period not to exceed five years.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The selected broker shall assist CPA in obtaining insurance coverages consisting of Airport and Seaport Property and Liability insurance, Automobile, Crime, and Director's & Officer's Liability insurance and providing such other services as may be subsequently negotiated.

PACKAGES & SUBMITTAL DATE

Proposal packages will be available beginning Monday, June 30, 2008, at the CPA Administrative Offices, Saipan International Airport, between the hours of 7:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday, excluding Holidays. Five copies of the sealed proposals shall be submitted to Mr. Lee C. Cabrera, Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, POB 1055, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 4:00 P.M., Monday, July 21, 2008.

EVALUATION

The factors to be used in evaluating the proposals shall be the criteria set forth in the RFP. Each criteria will be assigned a grading up to ten points; the proposer receiving the highest overall score will be selected to negotiate a fee for services. The CPA reserves the right to reject any proposals in accordance with Section 3.2(7) of its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

If there are any questions relative to this notice, interested parties are asked to contact Ms. Frances Mafnas, Acting Comptroller, at 664-3524 anytime during the hours stated above.

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA
Acting Executive Director/Contracting Officer

LAWSUIT

From Page 16

manner and conditions. The federal government does have common sense to know and see that our administration has one hand in a closed fist to fight and one open hand begging for money.

The feds also know it is the private sector doing most of the complaining, not the people. The feds also realize it has been the "private sector" that has

used its political power to perpetuate the many infractions of federal laws. It was the private sector that perpetuated a \$3.05 minimum wage for over a decade in defiance of federal expectations, not the people. The private sector is selfish in its very nature of being in business and the interest of the people are second to turning a profit, which is why the private sector must stand on its own merits to a large degree—it known as *laissez faire* economic policy and we teach it in high school.

I'm in full support of the private sector because they play a vital role but not at the expense of the people's quality of life. If the private sector would truly place the people of the CNMI first they would help themselves and the CNMI more by tracking, documenting and performing their own economic analysis to demonstrate the damage to the CNMI once federalization is fully implemented and to use this data for the "oversight" process of the U.S. Congress.

The "oversight" process of the U. S. Congress is the final stage of a law being implemented and to sue before this takes place defies common sense as this process is in place to avoid the need for legal actions resulting from adverse effects of laws implemented. In other words, we don't have to make more enemies in the U.S. Congress with a lawsuit and we can get the same results from the collabora-

tive effort in the oversight hearings cheaper and sooner than we can from a lawsuit against the federal government!

We even have candidates for the U.S. Congress supporting the lawsuit against the federal government and we haven't even seated our delegate in Congress yet. It shows how much they don't know about the U.S. Congress.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

WHAT'S

From Page 15

ington Ave, NW, Washington, D.C. 20500;

■ James Connaughton, chair, Council on Environmental Quality, Council on Environmental Quality, The White House, 1600 Washington Ave, NW, Washington, D.C., 20500 e-mail: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/connaughton-bio.html> or James_L_Connaughton@ceq.eop.gov or comments@whitehouse.gov;

■ Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, Department of

the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20240, e-mail: www.webteam@ios.doi.gov;

■ Dr. Gerhard F. Kuska, associate director, Council on Environmental Quality, Director of Ocean and Coastal Policy, Washington, D.C., e-mail: Gerhard_F_Kuska@ceq.eop.gov;

■ Carlos M. Gutierrez, Office of the Secretary, Mailstop 61, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th & Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Bud's Bar
Come & enjoy a family friendship **4TH OF JULY**

- Tequila shots \$2.50
- Bahomamama \$2.50
- Hurricane shots \$2.50
- FREE CHASERS!
- Beer in can \$2.50
- Home away from home!

DB to DC Transfer Deadline
JULY 25, 2008

If you are a Class 1 employee with less than 10 years of government service, your opportunity to transfer from the Defined Benefit (DB) to Defined Contribution (DC) Retirement Plan will end on **Friday, July 25, 2008**. Please contact ASC Trust Corporation for more information.



ASC Trust Corporation, Saipan Office

Tania Fleming Mesa, General Manager

(670) 235-2724 / 2725 tania.mesa@ascpac.com www.ascpac.com

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
GUANGDONG MILEI? GUANGDONG BA ITO?
Liberation Day Promotion Sale

2" x 4" x 18 Regular \$6.90	2" x 6" x 18 Regular \$10.80
2" x 4" x 20 Regular \$7.70	2" x 4" x 12 Utility treated \$6.70
2" x 4" x 12 Utility regular \$4.90	2" x 4" x 14 Utility treated \$7.70
2" x 4" x 14 Utility regular \$5.30	2" x 4" x 16 Utility treated \$8.70
2" x 4" x 16 Utility regular \$9.00	2" x 4" x 18 Utility treated \$9.70
2" x 4" x 18 Utility regular \$6.70	2" x 6" x 20 Utility treated \$10.70
2" x 4" x 20 Utility regular \$7.40	2" x 6" x 12 Utility treated \$10.20
2" x 6" x 12 Utility regular \$6.90	2" x 6" x 14 Utility treated \$12.20
2" x 6" x 14 Utility regular \$7.90	2" x 6" x 16 Utility treated \$14.20
2" x 6" x 16 Utility regular \$8.90	2" x 6" x 18 Utility treated \$15.20
2" x 6" x 18 Utility regular \$9.90	2" x 6" x 20 Utility treated \$17.20
2" x 6" x 20 Utility regular \$10.90	2" x 6" x 20 Douglas Treated \$18.90
2" x 6" x 18 Douglas regular \$12.90	

Galvalume roof tin (Gauge 26)
from Korea, better quality, long time no rusty

Plyform (5/8"):
Red/Black \$25.90 • Phenolic Black \$29.90

Thin-Set Mortar on SALE:
\$9.00 Custom (c.cure), gray, from U.S.
50lbs/bag, Regular Price \$9.80

OVERSIZED AND DAMAGED MAHOGANY LUMBERS 40% OFF

U.S. UTILITY LUMBERS Regular/Treated 2" x 6" / 2" x 8" 25% OFF

HOLLOW BLOCKS (CMU)
4" - \$0.50/pc • 6" - \$0.60/pc • 8" - \$0.70/pc

SPECTRUM PAINT ON SALE!

Grout, 25 Lbs. \$16.00

HENRY ADHESIVE 356 MULTI-PURPOSE \$15.00/Gal
HENRY ADHESIVE 356 MULTI-PURPOSE \$53.00/4Gals
HENRY ADHESIVE 430 VINYL TILE \$14.00/Gal
HENRY ADHESIVE 314 CERAMIC TILE \$48.00/4Gals

Special price for damaged items, from 15% to 50% off

Plywood 20% off	Cement board \$4/pc
Roof tin 20% off	10' pvc white pipe 4" \$12/pc
Window 35% off	Formica \$5/pc
White plywood \$6.00/pc	Gypsum board 20% off
Downspout \$8/pc	Mahogany lumber 40% off
Ceiling tile 2" x 4' \$3.00/pc	Shower room 35% off
Ceramic tile \$0.35/pc	Tie wire G20/G22 \$0.4/lb
Us lumber 20% off	Square bar \$4/pc
Metal stud/track \$4/pc	Rope \$2/pc
Door/louwer/screen 35% off	

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KOREAN CULTURAL CONCERT

Visiting members of a Korean dance company perform a traditional Korean drum dance during the Korean Culture Festival Concert at the Liberation Festival grounds in Garapan Sunday night. The group also performed at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on Saturday. The Peace Music and Arts Academy sponsored the presentation in celebration of the 232nd U.S. Independence Day.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Red Cross Health and Safety Training

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training for the month July 2008:

■ Adult CPR – July 26, 2008, Saturday, from 8am to 12pm

■ First Aid – July 26, 2008, Saturday, from 12pm to 5pm

■ Infant & Child CPR – August 9, 2008, Saturday, from 8am to 1pm.

The training fee for Adult CPR and First Aid is \$30.00 per person/per course and the training fee for the Infant & Child CPR is \$35.00 per person. A participant's booklet is required. Participant's booklet is \$5.00 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. (PR)

Military ID Card visit

This is to inform all active duty military, reservists, veterans and their dependents that the ID Card personnel from Hawaii will be on island from July 14 to 19, 2008. They will be issuing new and renewing military cards. Hours of operations are as follows:

■ Monday - Friday

from 8:30am to 7pm

■ Saturday from 8:30am to 12pm

Please adhere to the following schedules:

■ Monday – Wednesday will be strictly for all E Company dependents.

■ Thursday thru Saturday is open to other military personnel.

For more information, contact the Reserve Center at 322-6680. (PR)

Free computer classes at library

The Joeten Kiyu Public Library is now conducting free basic computer and Internet classes for all students until Aug. 30, 2008.

Class size is limited, so interested students may contact us at 235-7329 or 235-7322 for more information. (PR)

MHS Class of '88 meeting

This is to inform the Marianas High School Class of 1988 that there will be a meeting on Saturday, July 5, 2008, 4pm, at the residence of Melvin P. and Eleanor A. Cepeda in As Lito.

This is to wrap up last weekend's celebration and to discuss future plans. All classmates are encouraged to attend this very important meeting.

If you have any questions, call Eleanor A. Cepeda at 483-6358. (PR)

WSR Elementary School notice

All parents and guardians are being informed that the William S. Reyes Elementary School Office will be closed during the following dates: July 4/July 31-August 8.

Student Registration is still ongoing. If your child is not registered, please come by the office to register your child/ren. Registration will close on Aug. 11. Registering your child early will ensure that his/her school entrance is not interrupted.

The required student uniforms for school year 2008-2009 are on sale at the office. If purchased by June 27, a set of five (top and bottom) is \$108. If purchased after June 27, the set will cost \$115. Parents are also welcome to buy the uniforms individually.

WSR notebooks and yearbooks are also on sale at the office for \$2 each.

For more information, call the office at 237-3542 or Mrs. Villagomez at 287-3542 or 287-3807, or email at villagomezl@pss.cnmi.mp. (PR)

Tinian Jr. Sr. High School calendar

Summer 2008 School Information

HONORS ENGLISH

Start Date August 4, 2008

End Date August 29, 2008

Registration forms are available at the front office. (PR)

Sr. Remedios school registration opens

The Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center has started open registration for School Year 2008-2009.

Sister Remedios ECDC offers two choices for children between ages 3 and 5 years old:

■ A regular school day – 7:30am to 11:30am, or

■ A regular school day *plus* afternoon DAY CARE – 7:30am to 5pm

For more information, call 234-6247 between the office hours of 7:30am and 5pm. (PR)

Enter and have a chance to win the "Coca-Cola" Golden Ticket Giveaway each time you purchase a 6-can pack or a 1.25-liter bottle of any "Coca-Cola" family product at participating outlets from June 7 to July 31, 2008.

Win the Ultimate Movie Weekend Giveaway package! It's your Golden Ticket to Five (5) FREE movies ALL summer long! See entry box for more details.

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Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way

San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950

TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801

FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioners

KHORSHED ALAM and LEILANI MARGARETE BASA-ALAM

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In The Matter of the Adoption of

MOHAMMED MASUD and

TANVIR HASAN, minor children

By,

KHORSHED ALAM and LEILANI

MARGARETE BASA-ALAM,

Petitioners.

FCD-AD

CIVIL ACTION

NO. 08-0344

NOTICE OF

HEARING

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Notice is hereby given that Khorsheed Alam and Leilani Margaret Basa-Alam has filed a verified Petition for the adoption of minor children Mohammed Masud and Tanvir Hasan in the Commonwealth Superior Court. The original petition is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A hearing on the above-entitled matter will be held on July 24, 2008 at 1:30pm in the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 23rd day of June, 2008.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Tahiti gasoline prices top \$9 a gallon

PAPEETE, Tahiti (Tahitipresse/PIR) —The cost of living in Tahiti got more expensive on Tuesday when the government's 19 percent hike in the cost of unleaded gasoline and diesel fuel took effect at service stations along with a 2 to 13 percent hike in the cost of household electricity.

The Tong Sang government increased the retail price of unleaded gasoline 28 French Pacific francs (F CFP) from 148 F CFP a liter to 176 F CFP (\$2 to \$2.38). It also increased the retail price of diesel fuel at the pump 28 F CFP from 124 F CFP a liter to 153 F CFP (\$1.68 to \$2.07).

The 28 F CFP (+18.9 percent) increase in unleaded gasoline converted into U.S. gallons means the cost of gasoline at service stations for the three oil

companies operating in Tahiti (Shell, Total and Mobil) went up from US\$7.60 a gallon to \$9.04 a gallon.

That makes gasoline in Tahiti nearly twice the average price in the U.S., which began this week at \$4.095 per gallon. The U.S. price ranged from a high of \$4.456 on the West Coast (\$4.573 in California) to a low of \$3.928 on the Gulf Coast, according to the U.S. government's Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Preparing for Tuesday's more expensive fuel, motorists inundated the some 60 service stations on the islands of Tahiti and Moorea throughout the day Monday, the last day of the old prices. One Tahiti west coast station among the biggest on the island reported selling between 35,000 and 40,000 liters

(9,210—10,526 gallons). That compares with a normal day of 15,000 to 20,000 liters (3,947—5,263 gallons) sold.

The public also stocked up Monday on 13—kilo containers of butane gas, which increased in price on Tuesday from 2,288 F CFP (\$31) to 2,548 F CFP (\$34), a hike of 260 F CFP (\$3.50), or 11 percent.

Depending on household consumption, the cost of electricity increased 2 percent for households consuming 100—kilowatt hours (kWh) per month or less. That will amount to a monthly bill of 2,402 F CFP (\$32), or a 56 F CFP (76 US cent) hike. Homes using 190 kWh of electricity per month will pay 5,849 F CFP (\$79) an increase of 282

F CFP (\$3.81), or 5 percent more, per month.

At the top end, households consuming an average of 300 kWh per month will end up paying 13,071 F CFP (\$177), a 1,080 F CFP (\$15) increase, or 9 percent, more, while those

using 600 kWh per month will pay 28,837 F CFP (\$390), a 3,398 F CFP (\$46) increase, or 13 percent more.

The government's increases in the cost of fuel at service stations and electricity come following the government's

decision in late May to increase by 8.5 percent the cost of a "baguette", the French loaf of bread, from 47 to 51 F CFP on June 1.

These increases will contribute to Tahiti's growing inflation rate, which, although it was only 0.1 percent in May and only 0.7 percent from Jan. 1—May 31, has gone up 2.6 percent over the 12—month period ended on May 31.

Kiwi ship's captain ignores stranded duo

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR) —In New Zealand, a ship captain has had to explain himself after he failed to stop and help two men who were stranded at sea in a tiny dingy.

New Zealand correspondent Kerri Ritchie says Itintarawa Baraniko and his nephew spent

a cold night in the dingy with no oars or life jackets.

They were setting fishing nets on a river near Napier in the north island on Monday night when they drifted out to sea.

They were shocked when the freighter kept going.

The pair was picked up by the coastguard, but police of-

ficer, Luke Shadbolt, says the ship should have stopped.

"It is a breach of maritime rules and it's also a breach of unwritten maritime rules," he said.

But the captain of the freighter says the men didn't appear too distressed and he knew the coastguard was already on its way.

Beach Road mag launches battle of the bands contest

Calling all recreational musicians.

It's time to get out of the garage and let your music be heard live on stage! *Beach Road Magazine* will be holding the ultimate battle of the bands, the Saipan Summer Jam.

Saipan Summer Jam, which will be held at Palms Resort Saipan on Aug. 23, is open to all amateur bands with a minimum of two members. Exciting prizes await winners, who will also get a chance to perform at an emerging concert venue. Contestants will be judged by a six-member panel based on the following criteria: showmanship, originality, overall performance

and audience impact. The last criterion will be determined through text votes.

Each band will be given not more than 20 minutes to perform, and will be required to provide their own instruments. Bands will also be required to coordinate with *Beach Road Magazine* to schedule a sound check at Palms Resort Saipan.

Deadline for submission of entries is 5pm on Monday, Aug. 18.

So tune up those keyboards and guitars. Tinker with your drum sets. Let the music play on and get ready for the biggest gig in town—the Saipan Summer Jam, another first from *Beach Road Magazine*. (PR)

New Zealand residence belongs to Tongan king

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Tonga Broadcasting Commission/PIR) —The Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Feleti Sevele confirmed in Parliament yesterday that the 'Atalanga residence in, Epsom, NZ, is the property of His Majesty the King of Tonga.

According to the Hon. Prime Minister, the late Queen Salote Tupou III bought the residence, and he had met the former owner of the residence who had also written a letter confirming that the residence had not been bought by the government of Tonga.

The Hon. Prime Minister was responding to Number 1 Peoples' Representative of Tongatapu 'Akilisi Pohiva who said he had heard that there were plans to sell the 'Atalanga residence.

The representative said this was the first time he was made aware that 'Atalanga did not belong to the government. He said the reason why he had always thought the residence belonged to the government was because he noticed that in the annual

budget there was always funds set aside for the maintenance and up—keep of the property.

Meanwhile, the Hon. Prime Minister clarified the issue adding that government had already disclosed that 'Atalanga belonged to the royal household. He said the reason why government funds were used for the upkeep of the property was because there were government-sponsored students who resided at the residence as per the wishes of the late Queen Salote.

Not only that, whenever His Majesty was in residence at 'Atalanga, it was the responsibility of government to provide for the property.

At the same time, 'Atalanga has also been used for official government assignments including the time of the passing of the late King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV in Auckland, NZ, where the government of Tonga did not have to spend additional funding on the hiring of an appropriate residence to receive mourners.

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Pacific Youth Council Secretariat is revived

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—The newly re-established secretariat of the Pacific Youth Council is expected to provide much needed support for youth development in the region.

AusAID's Pacific Leadership Program and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community have signed a memorandum of understanding with the PYC to revive its secretariat, which has been dormant for almost 10 years.

SPC's Human Development Program Adviser for Youth, Rose

Maebiru, said the re-establishment of the secretariat is overdue.

"It will breathe new life into the PYC," Maebiru said. "The secretariat hasn't been in operation since 2000 because of lack of resources. This revival will enable the PYC to actively pursue its advocacy, network-building and information-sharing role, which will directly benefit young people themselves and their supporters in the region."

The MOU is one of the outcomes of a youth stakeholders

meeting held at SPC headquarters in Noumea earlier this year.

Delegates at the meeting stressed the need to strengthen the PYC by establishing an active secretariat. SPC, PYC and AusAID-PLP have pooled resources to set up the secretariat, which will begin operating this month.

Maebiru says the establishment of the PYC secretariat will help motivate National Youth Councils and young people to take a more dynamic role in national development.

"Youth leaders need strong leadership skills if they are to support other young people to become active citizens," she said.

The PYC is responsible for coordination, advocacy and building partnerships with other agencies to support National Youth Councils, which represent non-governmental youth organizations. These councils work closely with government

youth departments to implement action on national youth priorities.

One of the first tasks of the secretariat will be to update the membership status of National Youth Councils and to support their strengthening.

SPC's HDP will provide office facilities for the PYC secretariat and technical advice and support to its staff.

AusAID-PLP will provide funding and facilitate contact between PYC and other development partners.

The PYC was established as a regional NGO in 1996 to facilitate exchanges amongst National Youth Councils which are members of the PYC. It also aimed to facilitate capacity building initiatives and partnerships with other actors in the youth sector. The PYC secretariat is responsible for the implementation of programs and activities of the council. (SPC)

Pepsi's 'Twist and Win' promo a big hit

Pepsi's Twist and Win summer promotion has been a hit with customers, as instant win caps keep arriving at Pacific Trading Co. for redemption on an almost daily basis. Consumers can instantly win \$20, \$50, \$100, a PlayStation 3, iTouch and laptop computers. There are over 50 chances to win \$20, 10 chances to win \$50, five chances to win \$100, three PS3s, three iTouch and two laptop computers. Winning caps are located throughout the island of Saipan and Tinian.

Recent instant winners in-

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Trading Co. marketing manager Mike Babauta, left, presents Nick Shoemake with a Playstation 3 that he won during the Pepsi "Twist and Win" promotion. Shoemake bought the Pepsi bottle with one of the winning caps at I-Mart in Tanapag.

clude Nick Shoemake, who won a PS3 after buying a Pepsi 20oz at I-Mart in Tanapag, and Joshua Tomokane, who won an iTouch with a purchase of a 20oz Pepsi at Cool Mart in Fina Sis. According to Joshua, he has been buying 20z Pepsi everyday just to see if he would win something. Other \$20 winners have also been redeemed at PTC.

Winning caps are also placed in Diet Pepsi, Mountain Dew, Mirinda Orange and Mirinda Strawberry in both the 20oz and 2 liter sizes. Instant win caps are spread out throughout the different Pepsi brands and sizes and have been placed in stores around the island.

Instant win caps can be found at participating locations such as all Joeten locations, Price Costco, Payless, San Jose Mart, 99 cents, H-mart, XO Market, I-Mart, Twins Supermarket, KL store, Ming Ming Store and others.

The Pepsi Twist and Win promotion will run until Aug. 30 with lots of great prizes still in the market. Consumers who collect letters under the Twist

and Win Caps can save these letters to spell PEPSI. Once they've gotten all the letters to spell PEPSI, customers can redeem prizes at Pacific Trading Co. on Middle Road, Puerto Rico or at a designated location to be announced.

In order to determine the prizes such as beach towels, umbrellas, mugs, handy case and Pepsi Max 20 oz, consumers must spin the Pepsi Twist and Win wheel and will receive the prize the arrow points to.

However, for two days only—as a special Liberation Day offer—those who bring in two sets of PEPSI caps can choose between a Pepsi Max Beach Towel or a Pepsi foldable cushion chair. These prizes are great for use to watch the Liberation Day parade.

Pacific Trading Co. also has a Miller Lite summer promotion, called "Bigger, Better, Summer... Bigger Better Bike," during which PTC will give away a Harley Davidson Sportster 1200, also to be given away on Aug. 30, 2008, at a location to be announced later. (PR)

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Bankruptcies up in Hawaii

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Hawaii bankruptcy filings were up 46 percent in June compared to the same month a year earlier. The Honolulu Advertiser reports Figures compiled by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court show that 163 people filed for bankruptcy in June. It is the highest monthly figure for bankruptcy filings in Hawaii in 32 months. The newspaper reports that Hawaii bankruptcy filings during the first six months of 2008 are up 30 percent over the same period a year earlier. Much of the increase is related to consumers having problems meeting credit card bills and mortgage payments as the Hawaii and U.S. economies slow.

Abramoff to cooperate with Guam prosecutors

HAGATNA, Guam (Pacific Daily News/PIR)—Convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff has agreed to cooperate with the Guam attorney general's office in the case against former court administrator Anthony Sanchez. "Abramoff has entered into a cooperation agreement with the attorney general's office. He is providing us with information on the items we're looking at," said Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey Moots. At his arraignment yesterday, Sanchez pleaded not guilty to allegedly sending numerous checks of US\$9,000 each in 2001 and 2002 to Greenberg Traurig in order to circumvent Guam procurement procedures. Bordallo ordered a trial setting be scheduled for 9 a.m. August 5.

PNG population on track to top 8 million

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Papua New Guinea's Planning Minister, Paul Tiensten, says PNG's population is expected to grow from six million to 8.1 million by 2028. PNG's National newspaper says Mr Tiensten said the country's population had been steadily growing since the late 1990s at about 2.3 per cent, the highest rate in the Asia Pacific region. He says the government is committed to achieving and sustaining high level economic growth on broad bases so that the quality of life of Papua New Guineans will improve.



"Early detection is your best protection against breast and cervical cancer!"

Women can reduce their chances of developing or dying from breast and cervical cancer by:

- Maintaining or adopting a healthier lifestyle
- Visiting a physician regularly for a pap smear
- Getting a mammogram regularly

Contact the
**Breast & Cervical
Screening Program**
staff to see if you're eligible
for free screening.

Office Hours:
Mon-Fri
7:30 am to 11:30 am
12:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Closed on Holidays

Tel.: (670) 236-8731/27
Fax: (670) 236-8700
E-mail: cnmibcsp@pticom.com



Marianas Public Land Trust

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Marianas Public Land Trust is inviting the general public of Tinian to attend a public hearing for a proposed Tinian Public Market.

The hearing will be conducted as follows:

Date: July 7, 2008

Venue: Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria

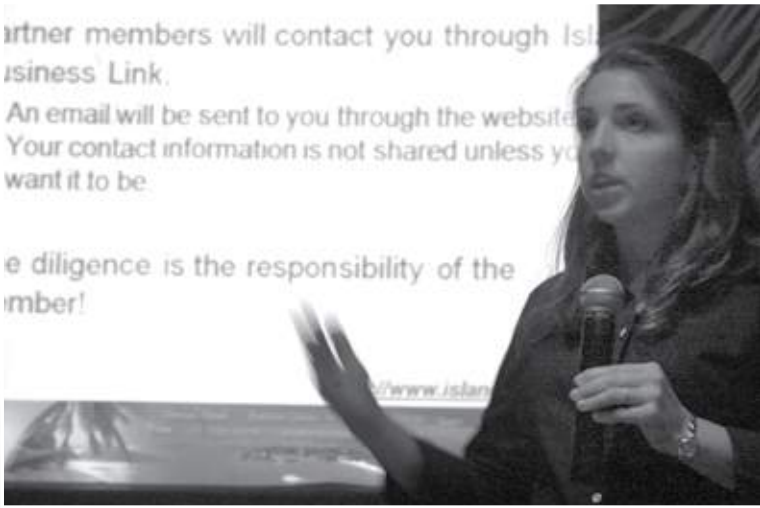
Time: 6:00 PM

/s/ ALVARO A. SANTOS
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Island Snapshots



STAR PROGRAM WINNERS
G4S Security Service (CNMI) announced the name of the winners of its Star Program, where each month an employee is recognized for his or her outstanding efforts in the line of duty. This program awards employees who not only carry out their daily responsibility but show extraordinary excellence by going beyond their basic responsibilities. The winners for the month of January to March 2008 are Mike Saito, Emanuel Angeles, Chowdhury Jahangir, and Karna Itani (not in the picture).
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ISLAND BUSINESS LINK
2008 Office of Insular Affairs Island Fellow Debbie Wissel briefly talks about the Island Business Link, new web-based business tool during Wednesday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Sandcastle.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE
The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library finished its Summer Reading Challenge on Wednesday and all the participants were given free t-shirts, courtesy of Pacific Trading Co. Other sponsors of the event were DFS-Saipan, Aqua Resort Club, JCT Enterprises, PTI, Foremost, Coca Cola, Horizon, White Coconut Computers, PC Outlet, PIC, MegaByte, National Office Supply, Bestseller, Pizza Hut, and Blockbuster.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Marvin Sablan and Rita Iglecias take the opportunity for a photo.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MHS CLASS REUNION
Members of the Marianas High School Class of '88 hold a family picnic at PauPau Beach on June 29, 2008. Here, the classmates get together for a group picture.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Members of the Marianas High School Class of '88 take the opportunity for a souvenir group picture at the banquet dinner reception held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall on June 27, 2008.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



From left, Alva Dela Cruz, Sophie Dela Cruz, Fr. Jesse Reyes and Jennifer Tkel Tenorio have their picture taken at Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall during the Marianas High School Class of '88 reunion party held Friday, June 27, 2008.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MHS Class of 1988's boys have fun at Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall on June 27, 2008.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



From left, Melissa D. Diaz, Michelle Castro, and Jack Sablan (rear) get ready to raffle the next prize during the Marianas High School Class of '88 reunion party held Friday, June 27, 2008.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Classmates hit the dance floor.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Oil prices rise to record \$144-plus

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices shot to a new record above \$144 a barrel Wednesday as the government reported a bigger-than-expected drop in U.S. supplies and the threat of conflict with Iran weighed on traders' minds.

The latest spike means a barrel of crude has gone up by about half since the end of last year, when oil was going for \$96 a barrel. Retail gasoline

prices climbed to a record of their own in the U.S.

Light, sweet crude for August delivery rose as high as \$144.32 on the New York Mercantile Exchange shortly after the regular trading session ended. The contract also notched a new closing record, settling at \$143.57—a full \$2.60 above the previous high from a day earlier.

Oil first traded above \$100

a barrel in January. It hit the previous trading high of \$143.67 Monday.

The Energy Department's Energy Information Administration said crude oil supplies fell by 2 million barrels last week, or about 800,000 barrels more than analysts surveyed by the energy research firm Platts predicted.

However, the report offered

a mixed picture of energy use by the world's thirstiest oil consumer. Gasoline supplies unexpectedly grew by a considerable amount, and demand continued to slide—suggesting that record fuel prices are prompting a real shift in Americans' driving habits.

Even so, gas prices continue to rise along with the soaring cost of oil. Prices at the pump

jumped half a penny to a new national record of \$4.092 a gallon on average, according to AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express.

The inventory report was only one factor in Wednesday's rally, which came a day before investors left for a three-day weekend. U.S. oil markets are closed Friday for July 4th.

Stocks drop after new record for oil prices

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street resumed its sell-off Wednesday after oil hit a new record and a bearish analyst report renewed concerns that General Motors Corp. could run out of cash.

The stock market's pullback, which accelerated in the final hours of the week's last full trading session, left the Dow Jones industrial average officially in bear market territory, with the blue chips having fallen more than 20 percent from their October highs.

The Dow fell 166.75, or 1.46 percent, to 11,215.51, the lowest close since August 2006. It now stands 20.82 percent below its Oct. 9, 2007 record of 14,164.53. The last bear market ended in October 2002.

Broader stock indicators also posted big losses after showing gains for much of the morning. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 23.39, or 1.82 percent, to 1,261.52, while the technology-laden Nasdaq composite index fell 53.51, or 2.32 percent, to 2,251.46.

The S&P is just shy of the 20 percent pullback that signals a bear market. While the Nasdaq is also in bear territory, it hit that mark in March, moved higher and has now returned to a bear level.

Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 1.31 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.98 percent, Germany's DAX index slipped 0.17 percent, and France's CAC-40 fell 1.03 percent.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Report: Microsoft seeks help for another Yahoo bid

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Unable to strike a deal on its own, Microsoft Corp. reportedly is hoping to snap up Yahoo's online search operations with the help of News Corp. and Time Warner Inc. Recognizing Yahoo's vulnerability, Microsoft is trying to recruit News Corp., Time Warner's AOL or other media partners to put together a joint bid that would slice Yahoo into pieces, according to The Wall Street Journal. Under the reported breakup plan, Microsoft would emerge with Yahoo's online search operations—the main object of the software maker's desire since it began stalking Yahoo as long as ago as 2006.

Circuit City shares fall as Blockbuster yanks bid

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Circuit City Stores Inc. plummeted to historic lows in trading Wednesday after Blockbuster Inc. withdrew its takeover bid, causing investors to question the consumer electronics retailer's future. Shares of the Richmond, Va.-based company fell 23 cents, or 9 percent, to close at \$2.32 in trading on Wednesday, after hitting a more than 17-year-low of \$2.10 earlier in the day. The company, which has seen its shares fall 86 percent from its 52-week high of \$15.33, says it will continue to review strategic alternatives, but said that doesn't require Blockbuster's presence. Blockbuster pulled its bid to buy Circuit City on Tuesday night, citing market conditions.

American could cut 900 flight attendant jobs

DALLAS (AP)—American Airlines says it could cut 900 flight attendant jobs as it reduces flights to cope with record high fuel costs. The Fort Worth-based airline expects to reduce jobs for pilots and mechanics too, but it hasn't released numbers yet. American, the nation's largest carrier, said Wednesday that job cuts were necessary "to overcome near-term challenges and secure our company's long-term future." American parent AMR Corp. said in a regulatory filing Wednesday it will take a charge of \$70 million to cover severance costs for reducing its work force of 82,000, including the flight attendant jobs.

Factory orders see small gain in May

WASHINGTON (AP)—Orders to U.S. factories turned in the slowest performance in three months in May as a surge in demand for commercial aircraft was not enough to offset weakness in autos, heavy machinery and steel.

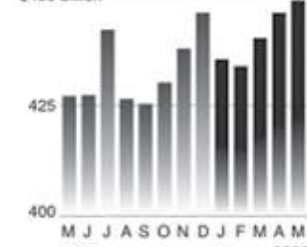
Factory orders rose by 0.6 percent in May, less than half the gains

turned in during April and March, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. It was the poorest showing since factory orders had fallen by 0.4 percent in February.

Analysts said the figures for the past three months have been inflated by big increases in the cost of refined petroleum and

Factory orders

Total new orders to American factories for all manufactured goods:
Seasonally adjusted \$448.7 billion



SOURCE: Department of Commerce AP

related products such as chemicals, which have been soaring because of the rising cost of global oil prices.

Oil hit a new record on

Honda grows while US auto industry falters

DETROIT (AP)—When consumers astonished the U.S. auto industry two months ago by quickly shunning trucks and going for gas mileage, the biggest beneficiary ended up being Honda Motor Co.

The No. 2 Japanese automaker, with the most fuel-efficient model lineup in the industry, never put both feet into the U.S. truck market, instead focusing on slow-but-steady growth with popular cars like the Civic and Accord.

It paid off in June. While its major competitors reported double-digit sales declines and burgeoning truck and sport utility vehicle inventories, Honda had a modest 1 percent sales increase. Its car sales were up almost 20 percent from the same month last year, and the Civic and Accord were among the industry's top sellers.

"They are better positioned than anybody in terms of the products they have for this kind of environment," said Ron Harbour, a partner with the Oliver Wyman Group and author of a widely respected annual report on auto factory productivity.

But while Honda may look like it can peer into the future, the company's top U.S. executive says it is well-positioned for \$4 per gallon gasoline because it always has emphasized small, fuel-efficient vehicles.

"We're not geniuses," John Mendel, the company's U.S. executive vice president, said Wednesday. "We're consistent."



While most of the automotive world had sagging sales last month, Honda dealers like Paul Moak Honda in Jackson, Miss., maintained a steady pace of customers for their line overall and almost sold out of the economical Fit sedan, photographed Wednesday, July 2, 2008.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,083.800
Down 127.800 (-2.45%)

HONG KONG
21,741.23
Up 36.78 (+0.17%)

JAKARTA
2,298.175
Down 80.299 (-3.38%)

TOKYO
13,276.72
Down 9.65 (-0.07%)

K. LUMPUR
1,153.70
Down 21.13 (-1.80%)

MANILA
2,345.68
Down 48.22 (-2.01%)

SINGAPORE
2,887.89
Down 18.34 (-0.63%)

SEOUL
1,608.98
Down 14.62 (-0.90%)

BANGKOK
748.39
Down 11.62 (-1.53%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
11,215.51
-166.75

NASDAQ
2,251.46
-53.51

S&P
1,261.52
0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0405
British Pound	0.5022
Canadian Dollar	1.0194
Chinese Renmbi	6.864
Euro	0.6321
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7995
Indian Rupee	43.318
Indonesian Rupiah	9225
Japanese Yen	106.13
Malaysian Ringgit	3.274
New Zealand Dollar	1.3178
Philippine Peso	45.185
Singapore Dollar	1.3617
South Korean Won	1036
Swiss Franc	1.0175
Taiwan Dollar	30.37
Thailand Baht	33.38

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Seniors find 2nd chance points in career rebound

By MARIA L. LA GANCA
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—After 50 years practicing dentistry in Santa Monica, Cal Kurtzman hung up his drill and embarked on a well-deserved second chapter of life.

Not golf. Not travel. Not rest. Not even volunteer work. Although he spent a short stint as

dental technology and began treating frail, elderly patients and dementia sufferers in the familiar confines of their nursing home rooms.

All of which, at age 74, makes him a trailblazer—in the large and growing population of underserved elderly patients he treats and in the way he's living his own life.

"As my practice and I got

There is the necessity of longer working lives to continue drawing an income and getting health benefits and the search for meaning. ... Purpose is as important as income.

an unpaid advocate for foster children, the families' problems were "really beyond the scope of my education."

What he knew—and loved—was dentistry.

So three years ago, Kurtzman outfitted his aging Nissan Pathfinder with the latest in portable

older, my patients got older," Kurtzman said. "I began to notice a lot of patients coming to the office who shouldn't have. By the time they got there they were exhausted, and whoever brought them was annoyed."

And then there were elderly

women and men who couldn't even make it to a dental office for care. A recent survey of older Los Angeles County residents revealed that nearly a third hadn't had a dental exam in the past three years, largely because of cost and transportation problems.

"I saw this unmet need," Kurtzman said, "and it ate at me."

The bearded traveling dentist, who spends three days a week on the road in Los Angeles County, also is part of a new wave of "retirees" searching for meaning through so-called encore careers.

In recent years, the high cost of living and the lack of savings have translated into more Americans saying they will need to work beyond the average retirement age of 63.

But in a new national survey released Wednesday, nearly 10 percent of baby boomers polled said they are currently pursuing work that matters in the second half of life, work that they want to do and that society needs doing."

And half of those surveyed who are not currently involved

in late-career jobs like teaching, public service, health care and work in non-profit organizations said they are interested in making such a change.

What's at work here, "is the intersection of several powerful forces," said Marc Freedman, chief executive of Civic Ventures, the San Francisco-based non-profit that teamed up with the MetLife Foundation to survey 1,063 men and women from 44 to 70.

There is "the necessity of longer working lives to continue drawing an income and getting health benefits," he said in a conference call with reporters Wednesday, "and the search for meaning. ... Purpose is as important as income."

According to the survey, those involved in service-oriented second careers trend

toward the higher end of the socioeconomic scale and are more likely to be college graduates. They value flexibility, and three-quarters said they are earning sufficient income and benefits.

Wednesday was a typical day for Kurtzman: A 6 a.m. workout at the YMCA, breakfast with friends and then off to west Los Angeles to smooth off a broken front tooth in an Alzheimer's patient he's never treated before.

Then he headed to the San Fernando Valley to examine and clean the teeth of another Alzheimer's patient he's seen regularly for several years. After that, it was a Santa Monica nursing home where he took impressions and prepared several teeth for a patient who needed a new bridge.

He ended up back in west Los Angeles at a board and care home for his most challenging patient of the day, a physically disabled woman who needed an abscessed tooth pulled but could not sit up without difficulty.

The solution: Do the dental work in her own bed.

Kurtzman's most complicated case since opening Comprehensive Mobile Dental Care in 2005 was a 68-year-old recovered drug addict and alcoholic who lives in a Pacific Palisades assisted living facility on the west side of Los Angeles, is petrified of dentists and whose "teeth were a mess."

"I had to take 23 teeth out," Kurtzman said. "We did it in two sessions. Then I made dentures. We're still working with him ...

"He looks like he's terminal at this point, but I feel like I helped him during the latter part of his life feel that he looked better," he continued. "That's the kind of thing that's nice."



Rose McCauley, left, a former plumber, helps Home Depot customer Wendy Goodwin find a plumbing part in San Carlos, Calif. The chain has 5,000 employees older than 70.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Stuck in a boring job? Find fulfillment where you can

By LILY GARCIA
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

A reader writes:

Hi, I have an M.S.W. clinical degree from Michigan. I am an expatriate, living in Ireland and working as a senior social worker on a mental health team (but not doing much of anything senior) and am bored as hell not feeling challenged in my well-paying post. I have a new mortgage here in Ireland and, unfortunately, the house values have gone down. I could not absorb the cost to sell it and move back to the States (not even mentioning my German partner, who also could not come).

In this country, those with an M.S.W. degree are non-clinically trained social workers often being utilized as benefit/entitlement experts despite their being on a mental health team. I have just gone through a costly, emotional process trying to clarify my role as it coincides with my job description which had the result, I think, of others being threatened by my forthrightness and my honesty and having repercussions (as in complaints) being lodged against me in a somewhat orchestrated

way (these have now been found to have been unsubstantiated).

Did I make a huge mistake coming here? I have a lovely apartment on the Irish Sea but I miss the American culture and my more fulfilling role as a clinician social worker. Please help.

The response:

The critical fact you have shared with me is that, for the moment at least, moving back to the United States is not a viable option for you financially or emotionally (considering your partner's inability to join you here).

So there you are in your lovely apartment on the Irish Sea feeling bored with your work and beleaguered by your colleagues, but earning a good salary and enjoying the company of your partner. I have heard of worse predicaments.

To be fair, I know that professional ennui can exact a psychological toll, and I am also not about to suggest that you should sign up for a long-term career in the Irish social work system. For the moment, however, the best antidote to your despair is to accept the limitations of your job and find what fulfillment you can within them.

Perhaps it will make you

feel better to know that your concerns about not feeling challenged and finding yourself performing duties that only vaguely match your job description are not uncommon in the United States as well. Finding satisfaction in your work may not be a matter of crossing the Atlantic, but rather finding a more suitable situation exactly where you are.

I have no doubt that the storm clouds will eventually part. Real estate values will go up, or you will accumulate enough wealth to cover the difference between the value of your apartment and your mortgage. You will find a more challenging job in Ireland, or you will be enticed by an opportunity in the States. Or maybe something entirely different will happen. But your current situation will not last forever.

You asked whether I think that moving to Ireland was a mistake for you. That question will be most eloquently answered by the attitude you take to the challenges before you.

Garcia, whose column regularly appears on WashingtonPost.com, has offered employment law and human resources advice to companies of all sizes for 10 years.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Credit-card rules about to change

By DAVID UFFINGTON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Credit-card companies are in an uproar: The Federal Reserve Board has proposed some industry-rattling changes to unfair credit-card practices.

Here are some of the proposed changes to the Federal Trade Commission Act.

■ No more two-cycle billing: Currently if you receive a credit-card statement showing you owe \$100 (and interest on that money), and if you make a \$40 payment, the credit card company can then turn around and bill you again for the interest on the whole \$100 in the previous billing period. The new rule would ban this practice.

■ Rate increases on pre-existing balances: If you make a purchase on a card, under present rules the bank can suddenly increase your interest rate while you're still paying it off. The

new rule would prohibit this practice unless the rate increase is because of a change in a variable rate, a promotional rate expires or if you've not made a payment within 30 days.

■ Time to make payments: The new rule would require that you receive your statement at least 21 days ahead of the payment due date. Additionally, if the payment is received by 5:00 p.m. on the due date, it must be considered as having been received on time.

■ Paying lower-rate balances: Currently if you have different rates on a card due to purchases and cash advances and make more than the minimum payment, the bank can apply the extra cash to the balance with the lowest rate, thus getting more interest out of you. The new rule would require a method more equitable to consumers to divide up the payment.

■ Fees for credit-card holds:

If a hold is placed on your card (when the total amount isn't yet known, such as at a motel), credit-card companies can no longer charge a fee if you go over your credit limit simply because of the hold.

■ Subprime credit cards (those requiring a deposit to open the account) will see a few changes, too. Consumers will be advised that getting the best interest rate will depend on various factors, such as credit history and income.

The changes are supposed to become rule by the end of the year.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columngreply@gmail.com.

Nation

US to send more troops to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP)—Grappling with a record death toll in an overshadowed war, President Bush promised Wednesday to send more U.S. troops into Afghanistan by year's end. He conceded that June was a "tough month" in the nearly seven-year-old war.

In fact, it was the deadliest month for U.S. troops in Afghanistan since the conflict began.

"One reason why there have been more deaths is because our troops are taking the fight to a tough enemy, an enemy who doesn't like our presence there because they don't like the idea of America denying safe haven (to terrorists)," Bush told reporters. "Of course there's going to be resistance."

Bush said it was a tough month too for the Taliban. But

the once-toppled Islamist regime in Afghanistan has now rebounded with deadly force.

More U.S. and NATO troops have died in the past two months in Afghanistan than in Iraq, a



Bush

of U.S. and coalition forces.

In June, 28 U.S. troops died in Afghanistan. That was the highest monthly total of the entire war, which began in October 2001.

For the full U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan the

death toll was 46, also the highest of the war.

Bush confronted the grim direction of the Afghanistan conflict during a sun-splashed Rose Garden appearance. The president used the event to tout his agenda for an upcoming Group of Eight meeting in Japan with world leaders, then addressed Iran, climate change

and gasoline prices in a short Q&A session with reporters.

The Pentagon predicts the pace of attacks in Afghanistan by a resurgent Taliban is likely to rise this year, despite U.S.-led efforts to capture key leaders.

"We're going to increase troops by 2009," Bush said, without offering details about exactly when or how many.

Kroger expands ground beef recall

CINCINNATI (AP)—The Kroger Co. expanded its voluntary recall of some ground beef products beyond stores in Michigan and parts of Ohio to its stores in more than 20 states on Wednesday.

The nation's biggest traditional grocer also urged customers to check the ground beef in their refrigerators and freezers for the date by which the product must be sold.

Meat obtained from one of Kroger's suppliers, Nebraska Beef Ltd., has been linked to illness reported in Michigan and Ohio between May 31 and June 8 caused by the E. coli bacteria.

Nebraska Beef has recalled from wholesalers and other

processing companies nearly 532,000 pounds of ground beef produced on five dates between May 16 and June 24.

Kroger said Wednesday that as a precaution it had removed ground beef supplied by Nebraska Beef from its stores, and is expanding the recall to its stores in more than 20 states.

"Ground beef in stores today comes from other suppliers not involved in the recall," Kroger spokeswoman Meghan Glynn said Wednesday.

The Cincinnati-based company advised customers to look for "sell by" dates from mid-May through early July on most ground beef products they have previously purchased from its stores and return them.

Police find body of missing Vt. 12-year-old

BETHEL, Vt. (AP)—The body of a missing 12-year-old Vermont girl was found Wednesday, hours after documents surfaced that accused her uncle of planning to initiate her into a child sex ring, authorities said.

Brooke Bennett's body was found about 4:45 p.m., not far from her uncle's home, said State Police Director Col. James Baker.

The girl's uncle, Michael Jacques, who has been in cus-

tody since Sunday on sexual assault charges involving another underage girl, is to be charged in federal court with kidnapping, police Sgt. Tara Thomas said.

Bennett was last seen alive with Jacques at a convenience store last Wednesday.

"The painful discovery of Brooke's body today is tragic and heartbreaking," Baker said.

He called the death "clearly suspicious" but declined to give details before a planned briefing

Thursday morning.

On Wednesday night, about 300 people gathered to mourn Bennett's death in what was originally organized as a candlelight vigil for the girl's safe return.

"Brooke Marie, I love you so much," her mother, Cassandra Gagnon, said sobbing. "I just ask that justice be done for the person who took my baby away."

The girl's father, James Ben-

nett, added, "I know Brooke knows that we love her and will always love her."

Earlier Wednesday, in an affidavit unsealed in U.S. District Court in Burlington, the FBI said an unidentified 14-year-old girl told investigators she was present on June 25 when Jacques, 42, tricked Bennett into thinking she was going to a party and took her to his Randolph home to be initiated into a sex ring.



AP

Acting Capt. Dave Craddock, of the Salinas Rural fire dept., surveys a fire-ravaged forest in Big Sur, Calif.

Entire Calif. town evacuated for fire

BIG SUR, Calif. (AP)—Authorities ordered the remaining residents of this scenic coastal community to leave Wednesday because an out-of-control wildfire, one of hundreds in California, had jumped a fire line and was threatening more homes.

Flames raged in the hills above and ash fell from orange skies as evacuees in packed cars streamed north along Highway 1, the only major road out of Big Sur. Sheriff's deputies told residents they needed to leave the area by late afternoon.

"The fire is just a big raging

animal right now," said Darby Marshall, spokesman for the Monterey County Office of Emergency Services.

The Big Sur blaze is one of more than 1,100 wildfires, mostly ignited by lightning, that have scorched 680 square miles and destroyed 60 homes and buildings across Northern California since June 20, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

New mandatory evacuation notices were issued Wednesday for a 10-mile stretch along Highway 1. Authorities have closed a total

of 25 miles of the scenic roadway, blocking access to popular resorts, restaurants, shops and art galleries that attract tourists from around the world.

The blaze had destroyed 16 homes and charred about 81 square miles of forest since it was started by lightning on June 21 in the Los Padres National Forest. It was only about 3 percent contained.

The new evacuation notice means that all of the roughly 850 residents who live along the Big Sur coast from Andrew Molera State Park to Limekiln

State Park have been ordered to leave, Marshall said.

Janna Fournier, a Big Sur resident for eight years, was heading back to her house to retrieve artwork and rescue her pet tarantula.

"I feel sad for the wilderness and the people who lost their homes," Fournier said. "We chose to live in a wilderness among all this beauty, so I know there's that chance you always take."

Helicopters hauling large containers of water droned loudly overhead as Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, David Paulison, visited Big Sur on Wednesday.



ACROSS THE NATION

First floods, now pesky mosquitoes for Midwest

CHICAGO (AP)—First came the floods—now the mosquitoes. An explosion of pesky insects are pestering clean-up crews and just about anyone venturing outside in the waterlogged Midwest. In some parts of Iowa there are 20 times the normal number, and in Chicago up to five times more than usual. The good news is these are mostly floodwater mosquitoes, not the kind that usually carry West Nile virus and other diseases. But they are very hungry, and sometimes attack in swarms with a stinging bite. Heavy rain followed by high temperatures creates ideal conditions for these bugs, whose eggs hatch in the soil after heavy rains. Scientists call them nuisance mosquitoes.

Animal groups out to fetch part of Helmsley estate

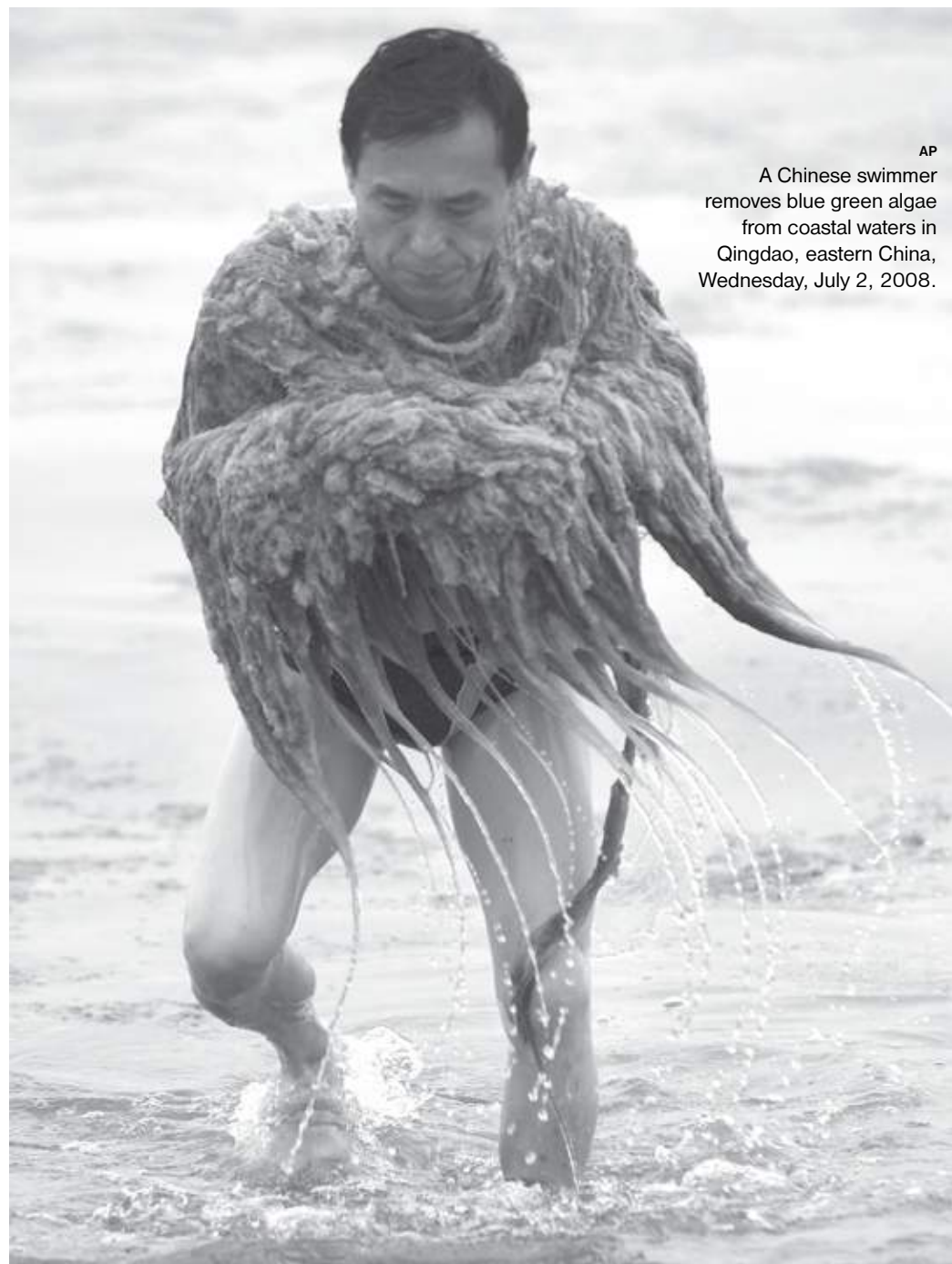
NEW YORK (AP)—Animal welfare groups are set to try to fetch some of Leona Helmsley's vast fortune. At least two groups are eyeing the hotel queen's estate—estimated to be up to \$8 billion—following a report Helmsley wanted her fortune to go to the dogs. The real estate baroness, sometimes called "The Queen of Mean" for the imperious way she treated her staff, died in August. The New York Times reported Wednesday that she left instructions that her estate be spent on the care and welfare of dogs. The Humane Society of the United States and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals said they will be suggesting programs and applying for funds if Helmsley's billions really end up funding dog welfare.

McCain aide takes over day-to-day campaign duties

WASHINGTON (AP)—John McCain put a top adviser in control of day-to-day campaign operations Wednesday after weeks of private concerns among Republicans that the GOP presidential campaign had not made the transition for the general election. Steve Schmidt, a veteran of President Bush's re-election and a member of the Arizona senator's inner circle, will oversee daily political, strategy, coalitions, scheduling and communications efforts from the campaign's northern Virginia headquarters. The campaign's estimated 300-person staff will report to Schmidt, who will report to campaign manager Rick Davis.

Asia

Algae bloom is China's latest Olympic nightmare



AP
A Chinese swimmer removes blue green algae from coastal waters in Qingdao, eastern China, Wednesday, July 2, 2008.

QINGDAO, China (AP)—China's latest Olympics nightmare is a vast algae bloom that covers one-third of the sea where the world's best sailors are supposed to be competing in just over a month. Athletes call it the blob, the carpet, the fairway.

"We almost think of it as land," said Carrie Howe, a member of the U.S. team and her three-person squad's unofficial algae remover. During practice, she dips her hand into the goo three or four times an hour to remove it from the rudder.

When it collects shaggily on the boat's tow rope, she and her teammates refer to it as "the dog." They've named it Hickory.

Chinese officials are trying to make the stuff go away. Hun-

dreds of soldiers cleaned it up by hand in a seaside park Wednesday. About 10,000 ordinary citizens were doing the same along the shore, while more than 1,200 fishing and other boats hauled it in by net, the workers smiling and flashing the two-fingered victory sign to journalists.

"We all need to pitch in," said Gao Shaofan, a massage parlor employee who was stuffing the algae into plastic sacks with her co-workers. "This is the worst it's ever been that we know."

Chinese officials promised at a news conference Wednesday that the Olympics competition area, all 19 square miles of it, will be clear of the algae before races begin Aug. 9.

"Actually, we don't have a backup," Qu Chun, the sailing competition manager,

said to a small chorus of groans from coaches.

The sailing teams had already known Qingdao, a charming port on China's east coast known for its Tsingtao beer, would be a difficult venue. The lower-than-ideal winds. The stronger-than-ideal current. The soupy fog that sometimes keeps teams off the water.

Then came the algae, which one Chinese official at the news conference, Lu Zhenyu, called a "natural disaster." First detected in May, it recently swelled to stretches of up to a few miles long.

Chinese officials and some experts blamed it on a combination of factors including warmer seas, winds from the south and an "exotic" strain of algae from farther down the coast.

11 rebels and one soldier killed in Kashmir clashes

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Eleven suspected Islamic militants and one Indian soldier died in gunbattles in India's portion of Kashmir this week, an army spokesman said Wednesday.

The rebels have engaged in sporadic fighting with soldiers in India's Jammu-Kashmir state since Monday, said Col. Uma Maheshwar, a spokesman for the Indian army.

Maheshwar said the guerrillas apparently infiltrated Indian territory from across the de-

facto border with Pakistan and that the army was searching for other infiltrators.

A rebel and an army officer were killed in fighting Monday and six rebels were shot dead Tuesday, he said. Four militants were killed Wednesday, he added.

The fighting took place in Tangdar region, roughly 80 miles north of Srinagar, the state capital, Maheshwar said.

There was no independent confirmation of the gunbattle

and no rebel group claimed responsibility.

Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan, but claimed by both. The two countries have fought two wars over the Himalayan territory since they gained independence from Britain in 1947.

Rebels have been fighting since 1989 to win Kashmir's independence or have the Indian-controlled two-thirds of the predominantly Muslim Himalayan region merged with Pakistan.

More than 68,000 people, most of them civilians, have died since the start of the rebellion.

RP grenade blast kills 3, hurts 11

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Suspected communist guerrillas hurled a grenade in front of a bakeshop that refused to pay extortion demands in the southern Philippines, killing three people and injuring 11 others, the military and police said.

The pre-dawn blast ripped the Park n Go bakeshop in Compostela Valley's Nabunturan township, where communist rebels, extortion gangs and other armed groups operate.

Authorities suspect that New

People's Army rebels were behind the attack, which took place after the guerrillas allegedly failed in their attempts to collect what they call "revolutionary taxes" from the business owner, army Maj. Armand Rico said.

NPA rebels have given extortion letters to nearly all the businesses in the area, Rico added.

The rebels could not be immediately contacted for comment.

The township police chief, Roderico Roy, said five sus-

pected rebels on board two motorcycles lobbed the grenade from a street corner fronting the bakeshop.

Some of the injured pointed out the assailants to responding policemen, who failed to catch up with the attackers as they fled on motorcycles.

Rico said the rebel activity in urban areas could be a tactic to get the military to divert forces from continuing operations against the group in nearby mountainous areas.

Heavy security in Mongolia after riots

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (AP)—Rifle-toting soldiers and armored vehicles guarded Mongolia's capital Wednesday, one day after at least five people died in rioting sparked by allegations of fraud in parliamentary elections.

President Nambaryn Enkhbayar declared a four-day state of emergency after thousands of rock-throwing protesters clashed with police Tuesday while they mobbed the headquarters of the ruling Mongo-

lian People's Revolutionary Party and set it aflame.

The demonstrators also attacked the General Election Commission, demanding that officials resign.

Enkhbayar, a member of the ruling party, acknowledged the fraud allegations but appealed for calm. Police and troops imposed a 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. curfew, and downtown streets were nearly deserted Wednesday night.

A small group of people gath-

ered earlier in the day in Ulan Bator's main square next to the charred, four-story party headquarters but dispersed after police using megaphones threatened to use force if they did not leave.

A four-block area around the building was cordoned off, but public transport, official cars and pedestrians were allowed during the day. Armored vehicles blocked nearby intersections and groups of soldiers stood guard, their rifles at the ready.

Malaysia's Anwar vows to seize power soon

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim has vowed to seize power soon, stepping up his campaign against the government as he fights an accusation

of sodomizing a young worker in his office.

Addressing some 7,000 people on Tuesday night, Anwar accused the ruling National Front coalition government of being corrupt, inef-

ficient and uncaring. He promised to set right the problems plaguing the country, including bringing down fuel prices. The government last month raised the price of gasoline by 41 percent and diesel by a whopping 63 percent.

The opposition will "rule in a short while" and "the next day we will lower the price of oil," he said to loud cheers in his first public meeting since he was hit by the sodomy accusation last week.

Police are investigating the allegation by a 23-year-old male aide. Anwar, 60, who is married with six children, says he is a victim of a conspiracy by a desperate government clinging to power.

Sodomy, even if consensual, is punishable by up to 20 years in prison in Muslim-majority Malaysia.

The government has denied any hand in the claim.

Anwar was fired as deputy prime minister in 1998 when he was faced with a similar sodomy accusation, and spent six years in prison until Malaysia's highest court overturned the charge in 2004. While in custody, he was beaten by police and suffered from arsenic poisoning.



AP
Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, center, is surrounded by his supporters as he arrives at a police station in Shah Alam, near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Tuesday, July 1, 2008.

World

Betancourt: Rescue in Colombia was 'impeccable'

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombian spies tricked leftist rebels into handing over kidnapped presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt and three U.S. military contractors Wednesday in a daring helicopter rescue so successful that not a single shot was fired.

Betancourt, who was seized on the campaign trail six long years ago, appeared thin but healthy as she strode down the stairs of a military plane and held her mother in a long embrace. She said she still aspires to the presidency.

"God, this is a miracle," Betancourt said. "Such a perfect operation is unprecedented."

Eleven Colombian police and soldiers were also freed in the rescue, the most serious blow ever dealt to the 44-year-old Revolutionary Armed Forces

of Colombia, which considered the four hostages their most valuable bargaining chips. The FARC is already reeling from the deaths of key commanders and the loss of much of the territory it once held.

The Americans—Marc Gonsalves, Thomas Howes and Keith Stansell—were flying directly to the United States to reunite with their families, Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos said. They had been the longest-held American hostages in the world.

Santos said military intelligence agents infiltrated the guerrilla ranks and led the local commander in charge of the hostages, alias Cesar, to believe they were going to take them to Alfonso Cano, the guerrillas' supreme leader.

US prods UN Council to punish Mugabe

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—The U.S. pressed fellow U.N. Security Council members Wednesday to impose sanctions to push for change in Zimbabwe, where leaders cannot agree whether to even talk about how to resolve their crisis amid fears of worsening political violence.

A draft resolution Washington wants the council to consider proposes freezing the financial assets of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and 11 of his officials and banning them from traveling outside the country.

The text, obtained by The Associated Press, also demands that Mugabe's regime immediately begin negotiations on forming a unity government with the opposition, although Zimbabwe's top opposition leader ruled out talks under current conditions.

The U.S., among Mugabe's sharpest international critics, was president of the Security Council last month. Last week, the council passed a nonbind-

ing resolution condemning violence against Zimbabwe's political opposition after South Africa, China and Russia opposed taking further action.

Washington also is considering toughening its unilateral sanctions. The U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe, James McGee, said in an interview Wednesday that could include expanding the list of about 130 officials now banned from visiting the U.S. and hit with financial penalties.

European Union spokesman John Clancy said the bloc also was studying sanctions to add to travel bans and an asset freeze already in place on Mugabe, his Cabinet ministers and top ruling party officials. New penalties could include further aid cuts or bars on European companies from doing business in Zimbabwe.

The United States and Europe say opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai should be Zimbabwe's next leader, but Mugabe has shown little sign of yielding power after 28 years as president.

Iran envoy dismisses attack threat

NEW YORK (AP)—Iran's top diplomat predicted Wednesday that the United States and Israel would not risk the "craziness" of attacking his country and possibly provoking a wider Middle East war or driving oil prices into uncharted heights.

Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said in an interview with The Associated Press that he does not believe a military strike is looming while the U.S. economy is suffering and it is bogged down in a seven-year-old campaign in Afghanistan and more than five years in Iraq.

His remarks come amid mounting speculation that Israel may be considering a unilateral strike on Iran's nuclear facilities—a contingency that could upend already volatile oil markets.

"We do not foresee such a possibility at the moment. The Israeli government is facing a political breakdown within itself and within the region, so we do not foresee such a possibility for that regime to resort to such craziness," Mottaki said through his translator. "The United States, too, is not

in a position where it can engage in, take another risk in the region.

"Of course, there are people in the United States who are interested in that.

But we think that the rational thinkers in the United States will prevent from that action being taken, and will prevent the imposition of another adventuresome act that would put pressure on the American taxpayers."

President Bush and others in Washington made it clear Wednesday that all options are on the table with regard to Iran and its nuclear program, but a military strike would not be Bush's first choice in the waning months of his presidency.

There have been growing worries that the conflict between Iran and the West over the nuclear issue could broaden into a more violent conflict, particularly if Israel tried to attack Iran's nuclear facilities in Natanz. The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—the U.S., Britain, France, China and Russia—as well as Germany have offered new talks if Iran signals it is prepared to suspend its enrichment of uranium.

The hostages, who had been divided in three groups, were taken to a rendezvous where two disguised helicopters piloted by Colombian military agents were waiting. Betancourt said her hands and feet were bound, which she

called "humiliating."

The pilots, she said, were posing as members of a relief organization, but "they were dressed like clowns," wearing Che Guevara shirts, so she assumed they were rebels.



Former hostage Ingrid Betancourt, bottom right, kneels to pray with her mother Yolanda Pulecio for a group prayer with other freed hostages upon arrival to a military base in Bogota after she was rescued from six years of captivity, Wednesday, July 2, 2008.

Betancourt's children rejoice as she is freed

PARIS (AP)—For Ingrid Betancourt's children, her release Wednesday after being held hostage for six years in the Colombian jungle filled an immeasurable void they had lived with as they grew into adulthood.

Her daughter, Melanie, was breathless as she spoke to reporters in the French presidential palace Wednesday night, her voice trembling with emotion.

"Merci, merci," she said. She was 16 when her mother was seized.

"It's hard to find words," her brother Lorenzo Delloye added, his cheeks ruddy with excitement. Lorenzo, who was 13 when she was taken hostage, thanked "the entire world" for his mother's freedom.

"We won a fight for liberty," he said. "It's the best moment of my life."

A Colombian army operation freeing the French-Colombian Betancourt, 3 American defense contractors and 11 other hostages elicited cheers, tears of joy and relief across France, where French President Nicolas Sarkozy and thousands of supporters had campaigned for her release.

Her children, who live in France, were heading to Bogota on Wednesday to be reunited with her—their first meeting since she was kidnapped by rebels in 2002 while campaigning for Colombia's presidency.

While Sarkozy spoke alongside them, Melanie tenderly ran a finger down Lorenzo's cheek, and the two held hands. She urged that other hostages still in the jungles not be forgotten.

Palestinian kills 3 in Jerusalem rampage

JERUSALEM (AP)—A Palestinian laborer driving a construction vehicle rammed into packed buses, tossed cars into the air and rolled over pedestrians in a deadly rampage Wednesday that killed three people and wounded dozens in Jerusalem.

The attacker's unusual weapon—a yellow Caterpillar front loader transformed into a deadly assault vehicle—threatened both Israelis' sense of security and Palestinians' fragile status in the city.

Hundreds of panicked people were sent running for cover before the attacker was shot dead by security forces. Three Palestinian militant groups claimed responsibility for the onslaught, the first major attack in Jerusalem in four months.

However, Israeli police said the assailant, a 30-year-old Palestinian from Arab east Jerusalem, apparently acted alone. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said the man was working on a railway project in Jerusalem.



Israeli security personnel and medics stand around a destroyed car and a bulldozer whose driver carried out an attack in Jerusalem, Wednesday, July 2, 2008.

The attack was a departure from militants' previous methods, which have consisted mostly of suicide bombings and shooting sprees.

"To our regret the attackers do not cease coming up with new ways to strike at the heart of the Jewish people here in Jerusalem," said Jerusa-

lem Mayor Uri Lupolianski, whose daughter was on a bus rammed by the attacker. She was not injured.

Israel called the attack a "senseless act" and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who is trying to negotiate a peace accord with Israel, condemned it.

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Nowthen, Minn., I think our city has a name

NOWTHEN, Minn. (AP)—Residents of Nowthen know it's a funny name, but they're proud to officially become a city. The community north of the Twin Cities changed its name Monday from Burnsville Township to Nowthen, which was the name the first local post office was given by mistake. During the 1890s, a community leader created a list of possible names for the post office and wrote, "Nowthen, one of these ought to do." Historians say the post office came to be known as Nowthen. Voters took the final step in the process by electing a mayor and four-member City Council. The first council meeting will be July 8, and Nowthen plans a city incorporation celebration in September.

Man sells stolen items near home that was robbed

OCALA, Fla. (AP)—Police say an Ocala man was selling stolen property at a yard sale in the same neighborhood as the home he robbed. Fred and Betty McAteers, who live in Ocklawaha, arrived at a home they own in Ocala on Monday to find that it had been burglarized. They returned Tuesday and walked around the neighborhood to see if anyone knew anything about the theft. During their walk, they saw their dresser sitting on the front lawn of an apartment building. They called the police, who charged a 22-year-old man with residential burglary and dealing in stolen property. He was being held on a \$4,000 bond.

More than 2,000 guitarists appear to set record

CONCORD, Calif. (AP)—More than 2,000 guitar-players performing "This Land is Your Land" in a Bay Area park appear to have strummed their way into the record books. Led by 1960s folk singer Country Joe McDonald, 2,052 electric and acoustic guitar pickers played the Woody Guthrie classic at Todos Santos Park in Concord on Tuesday night. McDonald kept the racket going for more than six minutes, as children and adults repeated the song's chorus. Organizers believe the rendition was good enough to beat the Guinness World Record for guitar-ensemble playing. The previous mark was set in Germany in 2007, when 1,802 people played "Smoke on the Water." The record is not official until Guinness verifies it, which could take about a month.

Runway tractor carrying potatoes mashes car

BERLIN (AP)—A farmer in Germany has learned a harsh lesson about the dangers of smoking. While he ducked into a convenience store to buy cigarettes, his parked tractor and its load of 25 tons of potatoes went rolling down a hill—and over a parked car. Police say the emergency brake came loose while the farmer was in the store, and the tractor and its two trailers barreled 30 yards downhill before slamming into the parked car and crushing it against a wall. Police in the western German village of Viersen said Wednesday that the car was a "total loss." The tractor and trailers, however, emerged unscathed.

10-year-old scholar takes college by storm

DOWNEY, Calif. (AP)—With the end of another school year approaching, college sophomore Moshe Kai Cavalin is cramming for final exams in classes such as advanced mathematics, foreign languages and music. But Cavalin is only 10 years old. And at 4-foot-7, his shoes don't quite touch the floor as he puts down a schoolbook and swivels around in his chair to greet a visitor.

"I'm studying statistics," says the alternately precocious and shy Cavalin, his textbook lying open on the living room desk of his parents' apartment in this quiet suburb east of Los Angeles.

Within a year, if he keeps up his grades and completes the rest of his requirements, he hopes to transfer from his two-year program at East Los Angeles College to a prestigious four-year school and study astrophysics.

One of his primary interests is "wormholes," a hypothetical scientific phenomenon connected to Albert Einstein's theory of relativity. It has been theorized that if such holes do exist in space, they could—in tandem with black holes—allow for the kind of space-age time travel seen in science fiction.

"Just like black holes, they suck in particulate objects, and also like black holes, they also travel at escape velocity, which is, the speed to get out of there is faster than the speed of light," Cavalin says. "I'd like to prove that wormholes are really there and prove all the theories are correct."

First, he has statistics homework to finish. Later, he'll work with his moth-



Moshe Kai Cavalin, 10, takes statistics college classes at the East Los Angeles College in Los Angeles, Calif. Friday, May 2, 2008.

er, Shu Chen Chien, to brush up on his Mandarin for his Chinese class. Then it's over to the piano to prepare for his recital in music class.

His father, Yosef Cavalin, frets about the piano-playing, noting that his only child recently broke his arm pursuing another passion, martial arts. He has won several trophies for his age group.

"Finals are coming and everything and he cannot play with both hands. He'll just try to play with the right hand," he says. "I don't know how his grade's going to be in piano. It worries me a bit."

If past success is any indication, his son will find a way to compensate. Cavalin, who enrolled in college more than a year ago, has maintained an A-plus average in such subjects as algebra, history, astronomy and physical education.

College officials couldn't immediately say whether he is the youngest student in the school's 63-year history. Among child prodigies, Michael Kearney, now 24, is often cited as the world's youngest college graduate, having earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of

South Alabama at age 10.

Cavalin's professors can't recall having a younger student in their classes.

"He is the youngest college student I've ever taught and one of the hardest working," says Daniel Judge, his statistics professor. "He's actually a pleasure to have in class. He's a well-adjusted, nice little boy."

Cavalin was an 8-year-old freshman when he enrolled in Guajiao Liao's intermediate algebra class in 2006. By the end of the term, Liao recalls, he was tutoring some of his 19- and 20-year-old classmates.

"I told his parents that his ability was much higher than that level, that he should take a higher-level course," Liao says. "But his parents didn't want to push him."

NZ man puts up his soul for auction

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A New Zealand man has put his soul up for auction to the highest bidder, noting that it is "a merry old soul" rather than a "funk soul brother" but that he would "would like to think there is a bit of funk in there somewhere."

Walter Scott, 24, put his soul up for sale on New Zealand Internet auction site TradeMe, and so far has received more than 100 expressions of interest.

Bids in the auction, which was to close Thursday, had reached \$189 late Wednesday.

Scott said he had been thinking about selling his soul for ages.

"I can't see it, touch it or feel it, but I can sell it, so I'm going to palm it off to the highest bidder," he said.

It was in "pretty good nick" except for a rough patch six years ago when he reached the legal drinking age, he said.

Advice from a lawyer was that the winning bidder would not be entitled to anything but Scott's soul and would not be able to own or control him in any way, he said.

The successful bidder will receive a framed deed of "soul ownership,"

Scott said.

TradeMe business manager Michael O'Donnell said the auction complied with the site's rules because a physical object—the deed of ownership—would change hands.

"I think he has entered into the spirit of the (online) community (and) he's also responded to our request to have a physical thing for sale and he's put together a nice looking deed for ownership," O'Donnell said.

"He's answered the questions in a straightforward manner and with humor and personally. I think it's unlikely that anyone's going to be misled by that auction," he told the Stuff Web site.

In 2001, 20-year-old U.S. university student Adam Burtle tried unsuccessfully to sell his soul on auction Web site eBay.

Bidding had reached \$400 before the auction was pulled from the site, with the company ruling something tangible needed to swap hands.

Last month an Australian man sold his entire life including his house and a trial at his job after the break up of his five-year marriage for \$383,200.



Boaters look on as dolphins swim in the Shrewsbury River Wednesday, July 2, 2008, in Sea Bright, N.J.

Dolphins can spend Independence Day in NJ river

SEA BRIGHT, N.J. (AP)—A group of 15 dolphins who have taken up residence in a river near the Jersey Shore will be allowed to stay there through the July Fourth weekend, even though a nearby fireworks display draws heavy boat traffic.

Federal environmental officials say the danger of trying to move or scare the dolphins back into the ocean outweighs the risk of letting them stay in the Shrewsbury River.

"They're evidently in good condition," said Teri Frady, a spokeswoman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "We have no reason to think they're incapable of getting away from things that disturb them."

Authorities had expressed concern

about boat traffic on the narrow river for a giant fireworks display that typically draws 150,000 people on land and hundreds more on the Shrewsbury and Navesink rivers.

Patrols will enforce a perimeter around the dolphins throughout the holiday weekend, state police Sgt. Stephen Jones said.

"We're not going to be out there with a tape measure, but we want to make sure people don't harass the dolphins or put them in danger," Jones said.

The bottlenose dolphins have been in the river for about 2 1/2 weeks, possibly after making a wrong turn chasing after schools of bait fish on their journey along the coast.

Science & Technology

Buying a computer for the new grad

By **MIKE HIMOWITZ**
(C) 2008, THE BALTIMORE SUN

Buying a computer for a new grad can be a simple job because there are so many good, inexpensive machines out there. But it can be frustrating, too—because there are so many good, inexpensive machines out there.

Like shopping for a car, the best way is to look at the “sticker,” or list of components, on each machine, to see how it stacks up with the kind of work you or your student will be doing. For the average student, you should be able to bring home a solid laptop for \$750 or less and a desktop machine for \$100 to \$200 less. Here’s my component checklist:

MICROPROCESSOR

Also known as the central processing unit, or CPU, this is the computer’s key component - the part that does the real computing. The vast majority are manufactured by Intel. A smaller but significant number of machines use processors made by Advanced Micro Devices, or AMD.

From a compatibility standpoint, it doesn’t matter—they’ll all run Windows software. Although it uses Intel-based hardware, Apple is the only authorized producer of machines using its current operating systems.

Most PCs today employ a dual-core processor—a design that puts two processor cores on a single chip, providing better performance with less power consumption and heat generation than traditional designs.

Unfortunately, Intel’s processor numbering system is so complex that almost no one out-

The best way to buy a computer for your college-bound kid is to look at the “sticker,” or list of components, on each machine, to see how it stacks up with the kind of work you or your student will be doing.

AP

side the company’s marketing department understands it. Names start with a letter and four numbers, followed by a string of gobbledygook involving processor speed, the front side bus and L2 cache.

You can find a full explanation at www.intel.com/products/processor/number. But for starters, remember that entry-level machines will have a sticker that lists a “Dual Core” or “Core Duo” processor, which is actually the end of the old (but still capable) Pentium chip line. As best I can tell, these models have designations beginning with “E2” or “T2.”

Newer, more powerful dual-core processors, which I recommend, are called “Core 2 Duo,” along with model numbers starting with “E” or “T” and numerals of 4 or higher. Generally the higher the number within a particular line, the more powerful the processor.

Processors whose designators start with “X” are part of Intel’s “Extreme” line (mainly for gamers), while “Q” or “QX” (for Quad Core) have four cores for really hard-core users.

AMD uses a scheme that’s a bit simpler. Look for an Athlon 64 X2 (dual core) designator, followed by a number signifying the processor’s relative speed, as in “3600+.” In laptops, the most modern AMD designs have Turion processors.

MEMORY

Also known as RAM, these chips store programs and data while the computer is running; when you turn off the power, everything in RAM disappears. A computer with more memory is generally faster and more reliable than a machine with less - particularly when you try to play music while you browse the Web, check your e-mail and edit photos, all at the same time.

Memory is measured in gigabytes, or billions of bytes. To run Windows Vista Home Premium or Apple’s Leopard operating system, get at least 2 gigs. Manufacturers often shave the price of a system by including only one gig. Upgrade before you leave the store—many retailers will install memory on the spot. Another gig should add

But if you need performance, look for a machine with a video adapter from nVidia, ATI or another third-party manufacturer with at least 256 megabytes of dedicated video memory. Microsoft recommends at least 128 MB of dedicated video RAM to run the fancy graphical interface in Windows Home Premium. But not every computer with Vista comes so endowed. So be careful when you buy.

MONITOR

Flat-panel screens have become incredibly cheap—about \$200 for a 19-inch model, so give your eyes a treat with a big one. Traditional monitors with a 4:3 aspect ratio are better for work applications, but a widescreen monitor will double as an entertainment center for playing DVD movies.

If you buying a laptop, beware of the shiny,

mirror-like screens that look great when you’re watching a movie from exactly the right angle—but drive you crazy with glare when it’s time to get to work.

Remember, you can hook up a large monitor to a small laptop and add a full-size keyboard and mouse for the advantages of a desktop machine.

CD/DVD

Most machines come with a compact disk that can read and write both CDs for music and DVDs for movies. If you buy a laptop, make sure you get a drive that will at least play DVDs—the best way to use a computer on a plane. Some laptops have external controls that allow you to play CDs without turning on the computer.

USB PORTS

Printers, scanners, cameras, digital music players, wireless mice, Bluetooth adapters, external hard drives and lots of other gadgets hook up to your computer through these small, rectangular ports. The more yours has, the better, particularly on a laptop. Front-mounted USB ports make it easier to hook up an iPod or camera to a desktop machine.

AUDIO

The audio circuits built into most entry-level PCs are fine for casual music listening. But if you’re using a PC as a dorm room or home entertainment center, look for one with 5.1 or 7.1 surround sound output for movies. Front-mounted ports for headphones and a microphone are convenient. On a laptop, an external volume control is helpful, too.

TV TUNER

These are particularly good bets for PCs in dorm rooms, apartments or offices with cable TV. They can save space and money by turning your computer into a real entertainment center. Tuners are built into some higher-end PCs, but you can pick up an external tuner such as Pinnacle’s PCTV HD Stick for \$100 or less.

HELP FILE

By **ROB PEGORARO**
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: Are there any laptops made for use outdoors? My screen keeps washing out in sunlight.

A: Leaving aside the question of why you’d want to waste a sunny day by communing with a laptop, some portable computers do include screens that—unlike most—remain readable in direct sunlight.

A few models, such as the Toshiba Portege R500, incorporate what are called “transflective” screens.

Another, possibly easier, option is to get one of the increasing number of laptops that include a LED-backlit screen. The light-emitting diodes behind their displays are much brighter than the usual fluorescent backlights. For example, the screen on Apple’s MacBook Air stands up to direct sunlight as long as you don’t position it to reflect the sun right back in your eyes.

LED backlights also use less electricity, last longer and avoid the toxic chemicals required by standard backlights. As their costs decline, they may become a standard ingredient in both computer monitors and flat-panel, liquid-crystal display TVs.

■ ■ ■

Q: What does “AJAX” mean when people talk about Web sites?

A: It’s an acronym for “Asynchronous JavaScript and XML,” which is itself jargon for using JavaScript (the code that lets a Web page respond to your instructions without talking to a faraway Web-server computer) and XML (a language used to design a Web page) to craft a site that looks and works much more like a regular computer program.

Compare, for instance, the operation of Google’s Gmail with the “classic” version of Microsoft’s Windows Live Hotmail: The Google webmail site opens a new message and lets you label it without your having to reload the entire page.

■ ■ ■

Q: Why aren’t there any rewriteable double-layer DVDs? I can find dual-layer discs only in write-once formats that I can’t reuse.

A: Recordable DVDs can hold 4.7 gigabytes of data, and once that must have seemed like an inexhaustible capacity. But now that one year’s worth of digital photos can max out a disc, the 8.5 GB allowed by “dual-layer” discs looks a lot more attractive.

But as the questioner noted in a recent Web chat, the only dual-layer discs for sale are write-once blanks, not the more useful rewriteable kind.

That’s not because DVD technology prohibits such a thing. A few years ago, the DVD Forum, which sets industry standards, approved a set of specifications for dual-layer rewriteable DVD-RW media, and the same work has been done for the competing DVD+RW format.

But other factors hold back these higher-capacity rewriteable discs—starting with high prices and limited compatibility, said Hugh Bennett, an industry consultant in London, Ontario. He said that dual-layer rewriteable discs are expensive and inefficient to make and that they don’t work in existing DVD players and drives.

Andy Marken, a spokesman for the disc vendor Verbatim, also pointed to the historically poor sales of rewriteable discs, noting that sales of write-once CDs and DVDs have outpaced those of rewriteable discs by a factor of five. That gives manufacturers little incentive to make dual-layer DVD-RW or DVD+RW formats work.

So how are you supposed to back up all of your photos? The best high-capacity backup tool remains an external hard drive that you can plug into any other machine—although it’s a good idea to keep a second backup of your most important files on a DVD or six.

Life & Style

Exes and uh-ohs: Author chronicles 11 marriages

By JOE BURRIS

(C) 2008, THE BALTIMORE SUN

Bonnie Ashley has grouped together all seven of her ex-husbands. The Bethany Beach, Del., resident scanned their images on a sheet of paper that she often shows folks eager to know how she managed to get married and divorced 11 times—tying and severing the knot with two of the men three times each—and why the unions lasted anywhere from 45 days to just under five years.

To hear the author of the self-published book “Ex-Husband in Freezer” describe each man is to know that she can really pick ‘em.

Her marriage to husband No. 1, she says as she pointed to the man in the upper left-hand corner, was doomed to fail. She only married him to leave the home of her father, a dictatorial, domineering minister.

Husband No. 2 was a terrific companion but had weird ways about him; sexually, he would do unspeakable things but was virtually uninterested in intimacy with his wife. She married and divorced him three times, going through bouts of nonfulfillment with him and loneliness without him before giving up on hopes that he would change.

Husband No. 3? A consummate womanizer.

No. 4 had a volatile temper; Ashley left him after he threatened her.

She left No. 5 after finding nude photos of him and another man.

No. 6 was a minister with an uncontrollable pornography addiction.

And No. 7 (whom she also married three times) was good for passion and intimacy but little else.

And those are just the guys Ashley married. It says nothing about the affair she had for about the first 10 years of her marriages with the man she wanted to be with all along.

“After being surrounded as a child and teenager by males who were always telling me what to do and when to do it,” she writes, “I felt the need to have one around me at all times.”

Meet the woman whose mari-



Bonnie Ashley, 53, penned the revealing book “Ex-Husband in Freezer” about her 11 marriages to seven different men.

tal history is probably enough to make oft-married actors utter, “Whoa!”

Ashley, 53, is a Salisbury, Md.-born real estate agent with a warm smile, free spirit, charming demeanor and a woeful penchant for hooking up with the wrong guy.

She’s also one of the most sought-after guests on the talk-radio and television circuit, delighting listeners across the U.S. and Canada about a marital life that began with her first marriage in 1974 and ended with her last divorce two years ago.

Since her book “Ex-Husband in Freezer” was released in February, Ashley has done more than two dozen radio and television appearances. She’ll be featured in a magazine in the United Kingdom. Two film producers have purchased her book. She says she’s in talks with one about bringing her story to the big screen.

Ashley’s stroke of marital misfortunes brings to mind celebrities known for their multiple spouses, including bandleader Artie Shaw (married and divorced eight times), actress and socialite Zsa Zsa Gabor (nine marriages, seven divorces and an annulment), actresses Elizabeth Taylor (eight

marriages, seven divorces) and Lana Turner (eight marriages, including one with Shaw, and seven divorces).

Yet it’s not surprising that Ashley had to self-publish her story. Her compelling, often salacious page turner was released at a time when publishing companies have been much maligned for taking on high-profile autobiographies and memoirs that turned out to be fictional.

Colorado-based self-publishing company Outskirts Press agreed to help Ashley get her book to print, and they honored her agreement she made with a few of her ex-husbands (including one who edited the manuscript) and family that none of their real names would be used.

When reporters have asked her of proof that she’s been married and divorced 11 times, she produces a plethora of legal documents: marriage license applications, licenses and divorce papers.

Ashley, who said she doesn’t receive alimony from any of her husbands, is enjoying the newfound modicum of fame brought on by reliving her tempestuous life. She’s received favorable feedback from women who harbor secrets of multiple marriages. One woman, unsure

about entering into a marriage, decided against it after chatting with Ashley via e-mail.

Across the airwaves, her message has received mixed reactions.

“As soon as she finished up, we got a few calls from people who were divorced two or three times that said, ‘Now I don’t feel like such a screw-up,’” said Drew Savage, a morning-radio-show host in Vancouver, British Columbia. “I could understand why some people would feel offended or believe she takes marriage lightly. But I admire someone who lives life with such passion.”

What’s the one message Ashley hopes the book conveys?

“Don’t make the same mistakes I did,” she said. “Don’t jump into marriage. Get to know people. Live with them if you have to, and try on the shoe before you buy it.”

Ashley offers details of growing up in close-knit, conservative church communities, mostly in Maryland and the South.

Females in those communities, she says, were subordinates who didn’t wear make-up, jewelry (wedding rings included), slacks or skirts with hems above the knees.

Ashley’s passion for self-

expression clashed with such boundaries. Branded as loud and obnoxious by her family early on, she rebelled against her environment during childhood and adolescence, then thrust herself into an adult world when she was incapable of making decisions that were in her best interest.

“I was taught that you grow up and get married, and a man takes care of you,” Ashley said. “A woman doesn’t go to college. She doesn’t go to work. She stays home and has as many children as she can and irons sheets and his underwear.”

“When I got married directly out of high school, it was a very happy thing for everyone, except that they had no idea that

it was a sham. I didn’t love this man; I just wanted to get out of my father’s house. He told me that as long as I lived in his house I was going to go to church; it was my way out.

“I’m not blaming him for all my marriages and divorces,” Ashley added about her father. “I should have had enough sense to stop, especially after No. 4, 5, 6 and 7. But my father called any unmarried woman over 25 an old maid. So every time I’d get divorced, I’d start hearing that ‘old maid, old maid, old maid.’ I would jump right back into marriage immediately. I would just find someone and marry him. Why they married me, I don’t know.”

BEST SELLERS

NONFICTION

When You Are Engulfed in Flames, by David Sedaris (Little, Brown: \$25.99) The quotidian meets the profound in this new batch of essays.

What Happened, by Scott McClellan (PublicAffairs: \$27.95) The former Bush press secretary says the administration deceived the public about Iraq.

The Last Lecture, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: \$21.95) A professor with terminal cancer urges us to seize life’s moments.

The Secret, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: \$23.95) Life’s secrets, distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.

Are You There, Vodka? It’s Me, Chelsea, by Chelsea Handler (Simon Spotlight: \$24.95) The talk-show host skewers dating, family and work.

The Prosecution of George W. Bush for Murder, by Vincent Bugliosi (Vanguard: \$26.95) The famed prosecutor lays out the case for trying the president for the murder of U.S. troops in Iraq.

The Post-American World, by Fareed Zakaria (W.W. Norton: \$25.95) What the future holds with the United States fading as the world’s leading economy.

Audition, by Barbara Walters (Knopf: \$29.95) The pioneering newswoman recalls her life and career.

The Downhill Lie, by Carl Hiaasen (Knopf: \$22) The writer describes his return to the game of golf.-3

Just Who Will You Be? by Maria Shriver (Hyperion: \$14.95) Ask who, not what, you want to be.

FICTION

Nothing to Lose, by Lee Child (Delacorte: \$27) A sect plans to hasten the end of times in Colorado.

The Host, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: \$25.99) Alien invaders take over the minds of humans.

The Dawn Patrol, by Don Winslow (Knopf: \$23.95) A surfing private eye tangles with thugs.

Chasing Harry Winston, by Lauren Weisberger (Simon & Schuster: \$25.95) Girlfriends make a vow to radically updo their lives.

The Art of Racing in the Rain, by Garth Stein (Harper: \$23.95) A dog’s-eye view of love, loyalty and sacrifice.

The Enchantress of Florence, by Salman Rushdie (Random House: \$26) A traveler arrives at the court of the Mughal emperor with a beguiling tale to tell.

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, by Junot Diaz (Riverhead: \$24.95) A sci-fi-loving nerd and his immigrant family are haunted by the past.

Snuff, by Chuck Palahniuk (Doubleday: \$24.95) An aging porn star tries to cap her career with a movie of her having sex with 600 men in one day.

The Spies of Warsaw, by Alan Furst (Random House: \$25) A French diplomat tries to discover Germany’s plans in 1937 Poland.

Sail, by James Patterson and Howard Roughan (Little, Brown: \$27.99) A widow takes her children on a sailing vacation that goes desperately wrong.

(c) 2008 Los Angeles Times

Baseball star A-Rod, wife split

NEW YORK (AP)—Yankees slugger Alex Rodriguez and his wife have split less than three months after the birth of the couple’s second daughter, according to a report in the New York Daily News.

The story on the newspaper’s Web site comes amid reports linking Rodriguez to Madonna. Rodriguez refused to address the topic on three

occasions Tuesday, once saying “no” when asked if he had any comment.

Yankees co-chairman Hank Steinbrenner also criticized the team’s lack of hitting before an 18-7 win over the Texas Rangers on Wednesday night, suggesting “a little less outside distractions and a little more concentrating” might help the team at the plate.

The Daily News reported Wednesday night, citing an anonymous source, that Rodriguez and wife, Cynthia, have separated after having “problems” for about three months.

Cynthia Rodriguez’s mother, Evangeline Scurtis, also denied a gossip Web site report that her daughter had gone on a romantic getaway with rocker Lenny Kravitz to Paris.

“She is not! I know that,” Scurtis told The Daily News.

Scurtis repeatedly declined

comment when asked about her daughter’s relationship with Rodriguez.

The couple was married in November 2002 and has two children, Natasha Alexander and Ella Alexander, who was born April 21.

Rodriguez went 2-for-3 Wednesday night with his 17th homer of the season and also scored four times. It also was Rodriguez’s 535th homer, moving him past Jimmie Foxx for 14th on the career list.

Lost Beatles tape airs on BBC radio

LONDON (AP)—A Beatles interview from the 1960s in which John Lennon and Paul McCartney discussed the way they composed songs together was broadcast on British radio Tuesday after it was found in a film can in a damp garage in south London.

The Beatles were at the height of their immense popularity when the tape was recorded at Scottish Television studios on April 30, 1964. The band had recently toured America, winning huge audiences on the Ed Sullivan show and shooting to the top of the charts on both sides of the Atlantic.

The interview was only broadcast in Scotland and sat in a film canister until it was discovered by film historian Richard Jeffs, who was astonished to find the familiar Liverpool accents of the Beatles on the tape. It was not immediately clear who owned the garage or why the film was there.

The audio portion of the tape was found to be still usable for radio broadcast, allowing the British Broadcasting Corp. to showcase its interview 44 years after it was recorded.

On the nine-minute tape, Lennon describes the fateful day in rock-and-roll history when he first encountered McCartney. Both were unknown teenagers at the time.

"I was playing at a garden fete in the ... village where I lived just outside Liverpool, playing with a group, and he came along and we met," said Lennon, who was a member of a soon-to-be-forgotten skiffle

band at the time.

McCartney said they were introduced by a mutual friend called Ivan.

Lennon and McCartney became fast friends—once they found out they had skills in common, and a shared taste for American stars like Fats Domino and Little Richard—and they soon joined up with teenage guitarist George Harrison to form the nucleus of what would become the Beatles.

Drummer Ringo Starr would come much later, just before the group started its string of unforgettable No. 1 hits.

On the tape, Lennon and McCartney—hailed by many as the finest British songwriters of the 20th century—discussed the haphazard way they composed together during the Beatles' early days, when they were under intense pressure to generate hits while keeping up a bone-crushing touring schedule.

McCartney said that the two usually worked on songs together but that sometimes Lennon wrote songs completely on his own.

"Normally we sit down and try and bash one out," said McCartney. "But then again, there's no formula, because he (Lennon) can come up with one one day completely finished. We still say we both wrote it, though."

The two principal songwriters, who would later have a falling-out as the band was breaking up, sounded extremely relaxed and affectionate with each other.

McCartney said they used whatever instrument was avail-

able when composing.

"Well, you know, it depends," he said. "Sometimes we write them on old pianos, anything that's lying around."

McCartney, who would later pen classics such as "Eleanor Rigby" and "Let It Be," told the interviewers that he and Lennon started off writing comical songs, including his first effort, the largely forgotten, "I Lost My Little Girl."

While the Beatles eventually wearied of the pressures of live performances, when they couldn't hear their own songs because of the noise from the fans, McCartney said in 1964 that they adored the attention they received from their screaming, fainting female fans.



This Oct. 26, 1965 file photo shows John Lennon, left, and Paul McCartney as they smile during a ceremony at Buckingham Palace in London. AP

Stars bring poker faces to Las Vegas for charity

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Celebrities turned out Wednesday to donate to Darfur charities - and to show their fellow stars just who the real card sharks were.

"I'm looking forward to whipping a lot of celebrity rear end," talk show host Montel Williams said before beginning play in a charity Texas Hold 'em tournament at the World Series of Poker. "I tweaked my game, and my game is really solid."

Williams and 87 others, including such Hollywood heavy hitters as Don Cheadle, Matt Damon, Ben Affleck, Jason Alexander, George Lopez, Adam Sandler and Ray Romano, played in the no-limit tournament to raise money and have a good time.

Charles Barkley also played after a recent pledge to take a hiatus from gambling. The 45-year-old former NBA star, who was sued in May by the Wynn casino for failing to pay back gambling loans, said he would donate his winnings to charity and didn't plan to spend a lot of extra time in town.

The TNT commentator paid back his markers shortly after the casino filed a civil com-

plaint. Barkley said he wasn't going to gamble for "the next year or two" on the air during the NBA playoffs.

"I can't gamble, so I gotta drink," Barkley joked with Phil Hellmuth after the 11-time bracelet winner invited Barkley for a cocktail after the tournament. "Can you imagine how bad life would be if you couldn't gamble or drink?"

Players donated prize money from the second annual "Ante Up for Africa" event to charities working in the Darfur region of Sudan. Cheadle and poker pro Annie Duke began the event last year to raise money and awareness for the region, where more than 300,000 people have died and 2.5 million have been displaced since ethnic warfare began in 2003, according to the U.S. presidential envoy to Sudan.

The tournament benefited two charities—ENOUGH, a project co-founded in 2007 by the International Crisis Group and the Center for American Progress and Not On Our Watch, a group co-founded by Cheadle, Damon, George Clooney and Brad Pitt.

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TOP OF THE CHARTS

- TOP 10 POP SINGLES**
This Week Last Week
1. Coldplay No. 2 “Viva La Vida” (Capitol)
 2. Katy Perry No. 4 “I Kissed a Girl” (Capitol)
 3. Lil Wayne feat. Static Major No. 1 “Lollipop” (Cash Money)
 4. Leona Lewis No. 3 “Bleeding Love” (Syco/3)
 5. Rihanna No. 5 “Take a Bow” (SRP/Def Jam)
 6. Natasha Bedingfield No. 9 “Pocketful of Sunshine” (Phonogenic)
 7. Jordin Sparks duet with Chris Brown No. 7 “No Air” (19/Jive)
 8. Chris Brown No. 11 “Forever” (Jive)
 9. Usher feat. Young Jeezy No. 6 “Love In This Club” (LaFace)
 10. Metro Station No. 14 “Shake It” (Red Ink/RED)

- TOP 10 ALBUMS**
1. Lil Wayne new entry “The Carter III” (Cash Money/Universal Motown)
 2. Plies new entry “Definition of Real” (Big Gates/Slip-N-Slide/Atlantic)
 3. Various Artists No. 2 “NOW 28” (EMI/Sony BMG/Universal/Zomba)
 4. Disturbed No. 1 “Indestructible” (Reprise)
 5. Usher No. 3 “Here I Stand” (LaFace)
 6. Journey No. 5 “Revelation” (Nomota)
 7. N*E*R*D new entry “Seeing Sounds” (Star Trak/Interscope)
 8. Alanis Morissette new entry “Flavors of Entanglement” (Maverick)
 9. My Morning Jacket new entry “Evil Urges” (ATO)
 10. Weezer No. 4 “Weezer” (DGC/Interscope)

- TOP 10 HOT COUNTRY SINGLES**
1. Kenny Chesney No. 4 “Better As a Memory” (BNA)
 2. Carrie Underwood No. 1 “Last Name” (Arista)
 3. Blake Shelton No. 5 “Home” (Warner Bros.)
 4. Brad Paisley No. 2 “I’m Still a Guy” (Arista Nashville)
 5. Rascal Flatts No. 3 “Every Day” (Lyric Street)
 6. Montgomery Gentry No. 6 “Back When I Knew It All” (Columbia)
 7. Alan Jackson No. 9 “Good Time” (Arista Nashville)
 8. Dierks Bentley No. 10 “Trying To Stop Your Leaving” (Capitol Nashville)
 9. Lady Antebellum No. 7 “Love Don’t Live Here” (Capitol Nashville)
 10. Brooks & Dunn No. 13 “Put a Girl In It” (Arista Nashville)

- TOP TEN MOVIES**
1. Get Smart (PG-13) Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway
 2. Kung Fu Panda (PG) animated
 3. The Incredible Hulk (PG-13) Edward Norton, Liv Tyler
 4. The Love Guru (PG-13) Mike Myers, Jessica Alba
 5. The Happening (R) Mark Wahlberg, Zooey Deschanel
 6. Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG-13) Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett
 7. You Don’t Mess With the Zohan (PG-13) Adam Sandler, John Turturro
 8. Sex and the City (R) Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall
 9. Iron Man (PG-13) Robert Downey Jr., Terrence Howard
 10. The Strangers (R) Liv Tyler, Scott Speedman
- (c) 2008 King Features Synd., Inc.

- TOP TEN VIDEO RENTALS**
1. Rambo (R) Sylvester Stallone (Lionsgate)
 2. National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets (PG) Nicolas Cage (Disney)
 3. Mad Money (PG-13) Diane Keaton (Starz/Anchor Bay)
 4. Untraceable (R) Diane Lane (Sony Pictures)
 5. P.S. I Love You (PG-13) Hilary Swank (Warner)
 6. The Great Debaters (PG-13) Denzel Washington (Genius/Weinstein)
 7. Grace Is Gone (PG-13) John Cusack (Genius/Weinstein)
 8. 27 Dresses (PG-13) Katherine Heigl (Fox)
 9. Cleaner (R) Samuel L. Jackson (Sony)
 10. First Sunday (PG-13) Ice Cube (Sony Pictures)

- TOP 10 DVD SALES**
1. Semi-Pro (R) (New Line)
 2. National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets (PG) (Disney)
 3. Rambo (R) (Weinstein)
 4. The Eye (PG-13) (Lionsgate)
 5. Meet the Spartans (PG-13) (20th Century Fox)
 6. Weeds: Season Three (NR) (Showtime)
 7. Indiana Jones: The Adventure Collection (NR) (Paramount)
 8. Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark (PG) (Paramount)
 9. Juno (PG-13)(20th Century Fox)
 10. 27 Dresses (PG-13) (20th Century Fox)

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Salacious details launch Brinkley divorce trial

CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y. (AP)—A \$300,000 payoff to a teenage mistress. Thousands of dollars worth of online porn. Extramarital trysts in the office and his supermodel wife’s Hamptons homes. Sensational testimony about Christie Brinkley’s estranged husband opened their divorce trial Wednesday, giving the public a salacious peek into the former Sports Illustrated swimsuit model’s fourth marriage. The husband, architect Peter Cook, testified that he and Brinkley used pornography “to get the mood going.” Alexa Ray Joel, Brinkley’s daughter with “Piano Man” Billy Joel, said Cook once shoved her head into a bucket of water.

And Diana Bianchi, the young woman whose affair with Cook set off a tabloid frenzy and ended the couple’s marriage, testified that he hid cash for her under a rock and gave her \$15,000 to help her buy a Nissan Maxima in 2005. “That is the man who’s come before this court and asked for custody of his 13-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter,” said Brinkley’s lawyer, Robert Stephan Cohen. Brinkley, 54, and Cook, 49, wed in 1996. She filed for divorce a decade later, after his affair with Bianchi exploded into public view. “There is no way to make that right,” said Cook’s lawyer, Norman Sheresky. “Peter has apologized. He’s cried his eyes out. He’s lost



Diana Bianchi, center, arrives at New York State Supreme Court for the beginning of the Christie Brinkley and Peter Cook divorce trial Wednesday.

his marriage.” Cook and Brinkley are mainly disputing custody of the children. Her ownership of her \$30 million home is not being contested because the couple had a prenuptial agreement. They are also arguing over property that includes three boats. Brinkley fought a bid by the children’s legal guardian to close the trial to the public, and Cook’s lawyer said the model was partly to blame for an unseemly spectacle. “For goodness sake: She’s on her fourth husband,” Sheresky told the court. “Your honor, we’re here because of the self-indulgent wrath of a woman scorned.”

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Almost 30 years have passed since the movie “Flashdance” arrived on the scene. Is there any truth to the rumor that there is an updated revival in the works? — F.G., Monroe Township, N.J.
A: “Flashdance” burst into theaters in 1980 to high commercial success, but critical panning. This month, a stage version of “Flashdance” is scheduled to premiere at Theatre Royal in Plymouth, England. Tom Hedley is co-writer of the script; he is the man behind the original movie script.

■ ■ ■
Q: Why is it so hard for some young stars to get their acts together? It seems like the older generation didn’t have near as many problems as the celebrities nowadays. Take British singer Amy Winehouse, for instance — she can’t even seem to stand up long enough to sing an entire song through. — Julia G., via e-mail

A: I know it seems like today’s stars are more troubled than ever, and perhaps they are, but my thought on the subject has to do with the extent of which today’s young celebrities are covered by newspapers and newsmagazines. Today’s culture is much more intrusive than in the earlier days of Hollywood. Entertainment rags line the newsstands by the dozens, rather than just the few trade magazines of yesteryear. Couple that with the immediate gratification and easy access of the Internet, and it’s hard for anyone to keep his or her private life private. While, admittedly, some stars court the attention, there are ways to outsmart unwanted intrusions. Just ask Jodie Foster, Charlize Theron, Luke Perry and other private celebrities: Don’t talk about your personal life if you don’t want

your dirty laundry aired for all the world to see. As far as Amy Winehouse goes, I am getting the feeling that at this rate she is going to be more well-known for her drug and health problems than her singing talent. And that’s a darn shame.



Cain

engaged to and has a son with Playboy Playmate Samantha Torres. They have since parted ways.

■ ■ ■
Q: What is Kim Novak doing these days? Didn’t she write an autobiography? — Linda S., Arcadia, Fla.

A: Czech-born beauty Kim Novak, 75, is best known for her role in Alfred Hitchcock’s classic “Vertigo.” She is no longer active in Hollywood, preferring instead to raise horses and llamas on her ranches in Oregon and California. In 2000, her Oregon home went up in flames, taking with it many Hollywood mementos and her computer, which contained the only copy of her long-awaited (and almost completed) autobiography. Kim also is an accomplished artist, working in watercolors and oils, sculpture, stained-glass design and photography.

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

“What kind of a mother wants her husband flogged in public?” he said. Cook met Bianchi, then 18, while she was working at a Hamptons toy store in 2004. He testified that he soon hired her to work at his architecture firm, paying her \$20,000 to type magazine articles onto the company’s Web site. Before long, he seduced her while they were working together in the office, she testified. “He had shown interest in me, and I reciprocated. He asked me how I would feel if he told me he was attracted to me,” she said. “I wasn’t taken aback, but I wasn’t really against it.” Tentative and halting during an hour of testimony, Bianchi said the two had sex about 10 times before their relationship ended in late 2005. Cook counted about 12 rendezvous—some at the office, some at Brinkley’s homes in the Hamptons. Tearing up as he testified, Cook said he showered Bianchi with spending money, including \$500 secreted outdoors—he said near his office; she said it was outside his and Brinkley’s home. He said he slipped more cash for Bianchi behind a painting. The \$300,000 payout came in May 2007. Cook said he was trying to protect himself and his family from scandal and was concerned that Bianchi might file a sexual harassment lawsuit. No lawsuit was ever filed.

MOVIE REVIEW

‘The Happening’ is so bad it’s good

By DNA SMITH
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

“The Happening”
Running time: 90 minutes
MPAA rating: R
“The Happening” is the latest offering from M. Night Shyamalan—Hollywood’s most self-indulgent filmmaker. That he is still allowed to inflict his poorly conceived claptrap on an unwilling populace is a testament to how much Hollywood hates us. Make no mistake: “The Happening” is a bad movie. Really bad. It is “Wicker Man” bad. It is “Showgirls” bad (only without the drag queen appeal).

Thankfully, it is such a bad movie that you can’t NOT miss it. “The Happening” plummets to such depths of ridiculousness and horrorability (yes, horrorability. It’s a word. I know, cuz I just made it up) that it makes the oeuvre of Uwe Boll seem Kurosawaesque. Here’s the premise: The trees are mad at us. So, to get their revenge on the humanity that has despoiled the planet, the trees—without the use of a lab, government grant or opposable thumbs—conspire and create an airborne neurotoxin that makes humans go bonkers and kill themselves in elaborate ways. Wait. It gets better.

The scientist (OK, not really. He’s a high-school science teacher) who discovers this is played by Marky Mark. Yes, Marky Mark. Formerly of the Funky Bunch. He’s such a brilliant mind that, at one point in the film, he decides to escape the Killer Trees by leading his ragtag group ... INTO A FOREST. Oh, sure, there are a few legitimately good bits, like when the zookeeper throws himself to the lions or the guy who lets his lawn mower run over him. But most of the truly good bits happen during the first 15 minutes of the movie. The rest is pure Badness. I’m not going to suggest you see “The Happening” in the theater. But definitely rent it when it comes out on video. Make a few pitchers of margaritas, invite some friends and enjoy the train wreck.

GRADE: An Yber-ironic A+

Birth of Jolie twins may be weeks away

NICE, France (AP)—Are the Brangelina twins boys or girls? Will they be delivered naturally or by Caesarean?

Angelina Jolie's obstetrician, Michel Sussmann, declined to answer several burning questions about the highly anticipated birth to Hollywood's hottest couple, but he did make one thing clear during a five-minute news conference Wednesday: "She is a patient like any other. And she's very simple. I have a lot of respect for her."

Apparently unaware that the stars are unmarried, the doctor said: "Mrs. Angelina Jolie and her husband, Mr. Brad Pitt, told me to tell you that she is doing absolutely fine."

He said her hospitalization "was scheduled for a long time."

"This is not an emergency situation," he added. "Her hospitalization at this stage in her pregnancy is totally normal for a patient who had a Caesarean



Angelina Jolie's obstetrician, Dr. Michel Sussmann speaks during a press conference at the Lénval Hospital in Nice, southern France, Wednesday, July 2, 2008.

(section) during her first pregnancy."

Her stay at the seaside hospital here could be a relatively long one. The doctor said she would remain in the hospital until the

babies are delivered and that could be "in the weeks to come."

"I can't give you a date," he said.

French medical secrecy laws are very strict. While Sussmann

said that the couple had given him the OK to give out a few details about the pregnancy, he did not disclose either the due date or exactly how far along Jolie's pregnancy is.

Though the lenses of the world's paparazzi have been trained on maternity wards across the French Riviera in recent weeks, Jolie managed to slip unobserved Sunday into the seafloor Lénval hospital, reportedly arriving by helicopter on the hospital's rooftop helipad.

Pitt has been seen coming and going since Jolie's hospitalization became public. On Wednesday afternoon, he entered a side door with the couple's two daughters in tow, 3-year-old Zahara and 2-year-old Shiloh.

Attention focused on southern France after the couple and their four children—including 6-year-old Maddox and 4-year-old Pax—took up residence in Correns, about 60 miles from Nice. The town's mayor confirmed that the couple had moved into the Miraval Estate villa, and a helicopter has been spotted taking off and landing there.

Set among palm trees, the boxy white Lénval hospital with

mirrored blue windows looks out over the sea. During her stay, Jolie can enjoy views of the city's famed Promenade Anglais, sunbathers reclining on the rocky shores and swimmers dipping into the Mediterranean.

Sussmann said four rooms had been reserved for the couple and a pair of security guards—debunking rumors that they had taken over the entire fifth floor.

"I find it legitimate that she wants to protect her privacy. She is a pregnant woman," he said.

The hospital is doing the utmost to protect the privacy of the couple—who for the birth of their first child went to Namibia to evade attention.

The media briefing to a gaggle of journalists jostling for position was held across the street from the hospital. And as of Tuesday, a sign hangs on the visitor's desk inside the lobby: "Journalists are forbidden to enter the premises, except with the authorization of the administration."

Jolie takes to killer role in 'Wanted'

By **JOHN ANDERSON**
SPECIAL TO NEWSDAY

Some things about the summer movie season are as predictable as ... well, the summer movie season. There will always be movies based on comic books—like "Wanted." There will always be movies worked on by five writers—like "Wanted." There will be movies starring Angelina Jolie cast as a kind of gun-wielding fashion model—like "Wanted." And action thrillers with body counts that rise faster than the national debt clock—like "Wanted."

So what's different about "Wanted" and its relationship to the very season that makes Hollywood the happiest? Among other things, that it's directed by a Russian horror stylist; it stars a Scotsman whose biggest films have been the quasi-art-house hits "The Last King of Scotland" and "Atonement." And that it features, in the all-important role of uber-villain, a German best known for playing either Nazis or the pope.

"I was really insecure when they hired me," said Thomas Kretschmann, the East German-born actor whose parts have included an officer of the Third Reich in "The Pianist" and the title character in the TV movie "Have No Fear: The Life of Pope John Paul II." "Angelina does it all—give her a weapon, and she knows what to do. Me, it was, 'When can I start weapons training? Please!!'"

For all his firearms phobia, it's Kretschmann who kicks things off, when his character, Cross, murders Mr. X (David O'Hara), and we discover that the recently deceased had a son, Wesley Gibson (James McAvoy), who is a miserable, cuckolded accountant. And yet ... he carries

the latent genetic material to make him the world's greatest assassin. Who can help him realize his potential? The mysterious Sloan (Morgan Freeman), Fox (Jolie) and a team of trainers who nearly kill Wesley, in preparing him to kill others.

Did we mention that the team is part of a 1,000-year-old tradition of assassins founded by a guild of weavers? The mystery looms ...

"That they were willing to cast me meant they were willing to do things totally differently," said the Glasgow-born McAvoy. "And I thoroughly enjoyed it. When I read the script, I was impressed, but I wasn't entirely sold. But then I saw his other films. He's so different, so weird."

"He" is director Timur Bekmambetov, Soviet-born (in what is now Kazakhstan) and, along with filmmakers such as Guillermo del Toro and Sam Raimi, one of the leading explorers of the outskirts of supernatural cinema. His double-barreled vampire thrillers "Night Watch" and "Day Watch" opened up all-new veins of visual mayhem en route to box-office success.

And yet, despite "Wanted's" defiance of physics, medicine and use of bullets that shoot around corners, he said special effects take a backseat to character. And that on "Wanted," he had the same type of relationship with his performers he had enjoyed on his Russian films.

"It was very collaborative and free, and without statuses," he said, then laughed at his own mangled English. "Sometimes, the players create ideas, and then we translate them to CG, but the most powerful special effect is the actor. All the visual style is an extension of character."

Bekmambetov said that he got what he wanted, and made

the film that he wanted, although McAvoy said the ending of the film is now completely different from what they shot. "There was a massive 10-minute fight scene between me and Sloan that's gone. The film is better for it. I knew it would be violent.

But this is a film that luxuriates in its own violence. It bathes in its own violence."

And this, the actor said, really separates "Wanted" from the standard summer fare. "It's an adult-oriented action-thriller, a hard-R, no-kids-allowed kind of film. You

don't see that much in summer. But it's cool. It's different. That's why I was interested in the first place."

Kretschmann is used to violence: He starred in "Grimm Love," which was about a real-life case of cannibalism and was deemed un-releasable in Germany. "That almost never happens," he said.

For all the creative angles and

counterintuitive characteristics of "Wanted," the big question remains ... Ms. Jolie. "She's chilled out, a nice woman," McAvoy said. "She doesn't take it all too seriously. You know, we're not changing people's lives with a movie like this, and if you can't have fun on the set of something like 'Wanted,' then someone else should probably be doing it."

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Mom of alleged Lohan sister 'wanted it exposed'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The father of a 13-year-old girl who may be Lindsay Lohan's half-sister said the family went public with the story after Lohan's father, Michael, repeatedly refused to provide support.

The Montana girl's family is looking into legal options to pursue once they establish that Michael Lohan is the father, Daryl Kaufmann said in a phone interview. He said his wife, Kristi Kaufmann, had been trying to get Michael Lohan to support their daughter for years.

"She had enough," Kaufmann said of his wife when reached by telephone at their home in Florence, Mont. "She just wanted it exposed. So he's going to end up having to do something."

Michael Lohan told reporters Friday he learned of Kristi Kaufmann's claim after receiving let-

ters and photos from her while incarcerated on drunk driving charges. Lohan acknowledged having a sexual relationship with Kaufmann while he was separated from wife Dina Lohan 13 years ago.

"Why would someone without taking a test put something out there like this?" Lohan said. "What if it's negative? What is that going to do to her own child and my children? Is this for the fame? There was correspondence where she said Ashley, her daughter, wants to be an actress, and she's so talented."

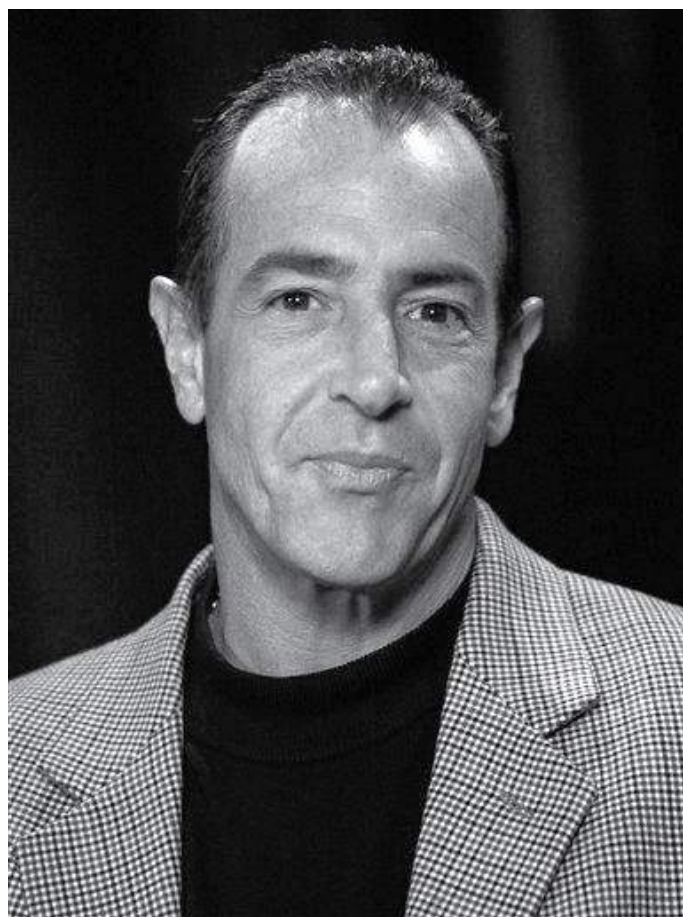
OK! magazine first reported Kaufmann's claim Friday. Daryl Kaufmann said his wife called and e-mailed several magazines in an attempt to expose Lohan as the father of her daughter. Kaufmann said OK! was the only publication to re-

spond to her messages and did not pay for the story or photos of Ashley.

"She used OK! magazine to get the ball rolling," he said.

Michael Lohan acknowledged on Friday there was a resemblance in the photos of Ashley to his daughters. He said he recently received a "senseless, ridiculous voicemail" from Kristi Kaufmann, whose maiden name is Horn. He said he has taken a paternity test and will take responsibility for the child if he is proved to be the biological father. It was not clear when the results would come back.

Lindsay Lohan's publicist, Leslie Sloane Zelnick, did not return messages left by the AP. Michael Lohan's publicist, Leslie Kellner Taylor, did not return messages seeking additional comment.



In this Oct. 24, 2007 file photo, Michael Lohan is interviewed in New York.

Michael Lohan, a former Wall Street broker, settled a long-simmering divorce with Dina Lohan last August, though they returned to court in Long Island last month over custody issues. The pair married in 1985. He was released from prison in March 2007 after serving nearly two years for attempted assault and driving while intoxicated.

Michael Lohan said he hasn't spoken with Lindsay or any of his other three children—Cody, 12; Ali, 14; Michael, 20—about Kaufmann's claim. Ali and Cody currently live with their mother in Merrick, N.Y., and are featured on the E! reality show "Living Lohan."

Lindsay Lohan is currently filming a movie titled "Labor Pains."

Sheryl Crow urges preservation of wild mustangs



In this March 6, 2008 file photo, singer Sheryl Crow poses on the press line at the grand opening celebration of restaurant Beso in Los Angeles.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Sheryl Crow is urging people to get involved in saving America's wild horses.

"I think it will be a real shame when we look back and we don't have these incredible species, and I guess my best hope would be that people, individuals, step up at this point and really protect these animals," the 46-year-old Grammy-winning singer says in an upcoming documentary, "Saving the American Wild Horse."

The program airs 9 p.m. EST Monday on the Documentary Channel. Directed by James Kleinert, it's narrated by Peter Coyote and features Viggo Mortensen.

Crow, who lives in Tennessee and owns a wild mustang named Colorado, says the animals are part of American history but are being sacrificed in big business' drive for Western lands.

"We're starting to get really, really far away from our heritage and what this country is based on," she says.

The documentary examines the Bureau of Land Management's policies regarding wild horses on public lands and includes interviews with ranchers, historians, animal rights activists, environmentalists and others.

Rush Limbaugh sets new deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Approaching his 20th anniversary as talk radio's most dominant force, Rush Limbaugh has signed a lucrative new deal with Premiere Radio Networks that will keep him on the air until 2016.

Premiere wouldn't disclose details on Wednesday, but Limbaugh told The New York Times in an article to be published Sunday that he would be getting a nine-figure signing bonus and would make about \$38 million a year.

Limbaugh's three-hour show, broadcast from his office in Florida, is heard on some 600 radio stations across the country. More than 14 million people listen to him at least once a week, according to Talkers magazine. Sean Hannity is second with more than 13 million listeners.

"This is exactly where I want to be, doing what I was born to do, with an amazing audience and phenomenal support from affiliate stations and sponsors," Limbaugh said in a statement. "I'm having more fun than a human being should be allowed to have."

He declined an interview request from The Associated Press.

Limbaugh's "Operation Chaos" this year showed his continuing influence in political discourse. He urged his listeners to vote for Hillary Clinton to keep the Democratic nomination fight going in the hopes of

hurting Barack Obama.

Limbaugh, however, is no big fan of presumptive Republican nominee John McCain, even though he prefers him to Obama. Limbaugh, 57, said in January that if McCain were nominated "it's going to destroy the Republican Party."

Keeping Limbaugh in the fold is crucial if radio is going to be competitive with the Internet and satellite radio, said Michael Harrison, publisher of Talkers.

"It shows that there's a strong commitment on the part of one

of the leading companies in our industry to remain viable for the next decade," he said. "If radio is going to continue and to survive it's got to do what it takes to keep its biggest players happy and exclusive to radio."

Premiere Radio Networks, which is owned by Clear Channel Radio, is also partners with Limbaugh in "The Limbaugh Letter," a monthly newsletter, and the Web site RushLimbaugh.com. The company also syndicates "The Rush Limbaugh Morning Update," a 90-second commentary that airs Monday through Friday.

Charlie Rahilly, Premiere president, said advertiser and affiliate demand for Limbaugh's show is at an all-time high.

Despite the reported big price tag, Rahilly said: "It's a really rational decision ... It's great for Premiere and Clear Channel."



Limbaugh

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NOW SHOWING



Hancock

Fri & Sat 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:30
 Sun thru Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:30

Will Smith, Charlize Theron
 Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A hard-drinking superhero with a notorious reputation as a womanizer enters into an unlikely affair with a small-town housewife in director Peter Berg's unconventional look at the private life of a superhuman crime-fighter. Will Smith stars as the embittered do-gooder whose lifestyle is more akin to a rock star than a role model, and who has grown as disillusioned with his once-admiring public as they have of him. — Jason Buchanan, All Movie Guide



WALL-E

Fri & Sat 1:15 4:05 7:05 9:40
 Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:05 7:05

WALL-E as played by Tracy McGrady
 Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated G

Synopsis

Disney and Pixar join forces for this computer-animated tale about a wide-eyed robot who travels to the deepest reaches of outer space in search of a newfound friend. The year is 2700, and planet Earth has long been uninhabitable. For hundreds of years, WALL-E (Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class) has been taking out the trash, and collecting precious knick-knacks in order to stave off the boredom of his dreary routine. Little does WALL-E realize that he has recently stumbled onto a secret that could save planet Earth, and once again make the ravaged planet safe for all humankind. When highly advanced search robot EVE makes friends with WALL-E and realizes the value of his remarkable discovery, she excitedly races back to let the humans know that there's hope for their home planet after all.



Wanted

Fri & Sat 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:50
 Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:25

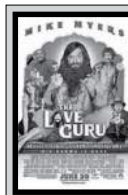
James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie
 Action • Rated R



Get Smart

Fri & Sat 1:00 4:15 7:10 9:45
 Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:15 7:10

Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway
 Comedy, Adaptation • Rated PG 13



The Love Guru

Fri & Sat 1:10 4:30
 Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:30

Mike Myers, Jessica Alba
 Comedy • Rated PG 13



The Incredible Hulk

Fri & Sat 1:25 4:00 7:00 7:30
 Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:00 7:30

Edward Norton, Liv Tyler
 Action, Adaptation • Rated PG 13



The Happening

Fri & Sat 7:15 10:00
 Sun thru Thurs 7:15

Mark Wahlberg, John Leguizamo
 Action, Thriller • Rated R



Kung Fu Panda

Fri & Sat 1:05 4:20 7:20 9:35
 Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:20 7:20

Jack Black (v), Dustin Hoffman (v)
 Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated PG

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Repost of sex tape snippets OK'd

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The woman in a sex tape featuring Verne Troyer—best known for his role in the “Austin Powers” movies—says she allowed celebrity Web site TMZ to broadcast snippets of the tape.

Troyer’s ex-girlfriend, Ranae Shrider, signed a declaration filed in federal court in Los Angeles stating the tape was created with her video camera. Her statement prompted a judge to allow TMZ to reinstate a post featuring snippets of the tape.

The judge had temporarily barred TMZ from showing or broadcasting any portion of the tape on its Web site or TV show. The post was restored by Tuesday evening.

The judge has still barred a porn distributor named in a \$20 million lawsuit filed by Troyer from distributing or taking orders for the 50-minute tape.

Troyer starred as Mini Me in two “Austin Powers” movies. His lawsuit alleged the tape was stolen. Shrider’s statement says she believes she also owns the tape, but so far has only given permission to TMZ to air it.



In this June 11, 2008 file photo, actor Verne Troyer poses on the press line at the premiere of the feature film “The Love Guru” in Los Angeles. AP

Tatum O’Neal pleads guilty to disorderly conduct

NEW YORK (AP)—Tatum O’Neal has pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct in connection with her June cocaine possession arrest in lower Manhattan.

Manhattan Criminal Court Judge Elisa Koenderman (KEN’-dehr-man) has ordered the 44-year-old actress to spend two half-day sessions in a drug treatment program and pay a \$95 surcharge.

If O’Neal has met those conditions when she returns to court on September 4th, the case will be dismissed.

O’Neal won a best supporting actress Oscar at age 10 for 1973’s “Paper Moon,” becoming the youngest person ever to win



In a March 20, 2008 file photo actress Tatum O’Neal attends a screening at the IFC Center in New York. AP

an Academy Award.

O’Neal, the daughter of Ryan O’Neal, has publicly chronicled her struggles with drugs over the years.

Motley Crue hits the chart

By **RANDY LEWIS**
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Literature rarely provides fodder for chart-topping pop music, but leave it to Motley Crue to be the exception to yet another rule. The notorious metal band’s latest album, “Saints of Los Angeles,” drew its inspiration from “The Dirt,” the best-selling memoir recounting the band members’ escapades with sex, drugs and rock ‘n’ roll. “Saints” is the highest-debuting

album on this week’s national sales chart, posting first-week sales of 99,000 copies.

It’s the quartet’s first album of new material in nearly a decade with the original lineup: Tommy Lee, Nikki Sixx, Vince Neil and Mick Mars. Not that the celebrated infighting has vanished. Sixx recently told an interviewer that the album’s song “White Trash Circus” is “about being on the road and not being able to stand each other.”

Promoter live nation signs Shakira

Shakira is joining Madonna, Jay-Z and U2 in forgoing traditional record industry alliances to sign a multimillion-dollar contract with promotion giant Live Nation.

The 10-year deal gives Live Nation the right to handle her concerts, recordings, merchandising and other aspects of her career, according to a statement issued by her publicist. It did not

specify when the contract would take effect or the dollar value, but it was estimated to be worth \$70 million to \$100 million by various music industry sources.

The Colombian singer and songwriter owes three albums to her current label, Epic Records—one in English, one in Spanish and a hits collection. *(Los Angeles Times)*

Daughter chafes under strict control of suspicious mother

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I’m a high school student in the top 2 percent of my class. I’m heavily involved in extra-curricular activities. I don’t give my mom much to worry about, but she is always “concerned.”

She spies on me from the other room while I’m online and has recruited my brother to help her. She has forced me to give her the passwords to my e-mail and Myspace accounts and constantly asks me what I’m doing.

When I’m in my room alone, she repeatedly comes in to ask me what’s going on and says I’m not supposed to close my bedroom door. If I do, she will open it without knocking. Abby, even the bathroom door isn’t permitted to be locked. If it is, Mom breaks in with a bobby pin, and I’m given the third degree. Nothing is sacred.

Mom has looked for and read my diary. When I question her methods, she responds that she “doesn’t want to argue about it.”

I have never given her any problems. Is she right to be concerned, or do I deserve better? Please help. I have nothing to myself.

SPIED ON IN OHIO

DEAR SPIED ON: While I’m all for conscientious parenting, it appears your mom as gone over the top. In her zeal to “protect” you -- even from yourself -- she is acting more like a prison matron than a mother. Because you have given her no grounds for her inability to trust you, I can only wonder what she did as a teen that has made her hyper-suspicious of you.

Is your father in the picture? If so, talk to him about the situation. If not, ask a female relative or the mother of a friend to talk to your mother and explain that when this amount of control is exerted, all it accomplishes is driving the child away. I can’t promise it will help her to get a grip, but it might.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Six years before my father was diagnosed with bone cancer, he suffered a severe stroke that left him barely able to communicate. He had always been extremely social, so his inability to talk had been hard on him, but the pain from the bone cancer made it far worse. He no longer enjoyed his favorite music and television shows, and he was frustrated by his inability to communicate. Even visits from loved ones didn’t provide much comfort. We were at a loss as to how to ease his suffering and fears.

Then my sister-in-law came up with a wonderful idea. She assembled a collage of pictures from Dad’s life. Many were silly, candid shots that would make the average photographer cringe, but they were a visible record of the story of his life. He spent countless hours gazing at the collage with a faraway, happy expression on his face that let us know he was remembering happier times.

After his death we moved the collage to a place of honor in my parents’ home, where it continues to remind us all of the wonderful life that was my father’s. I’m so grateful to my dear sister-in-law for her stroke of brilliance. It provided immeasurable comfort to Dad during his last days, and continues to bring joy to our family. Perhaps her creative idea will be helpful to others.

VIRGINIA IN TUCSON

DEAR VIRGINIA: I hope so. By summing up her father-in-law’s life in that “pictorial essay,” in a sense she gave back to him what his illness had stolen away. And I’m sure it brought him comfort. Thank you for sharing.

■ ■ ■

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY READERS: Happy Fourth of July, everyone. And to my dear mother, Pauline Phillips, in Minneapolis -- Happy 90th birthday, Mom. You’re the one who caused all those fireworks!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Chevy Chase to host Newport Jazz Festival again

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP)—Live from Newport: it’s Chevy Chase. Chase, the comic actor and original cast member of “Saturday Night Live” will host the Newport Jazz Festival for the second year in a row.

The JVC Jazz Festival-Newport runs Aug. 8-10 at the International Tennis Hall of Fame and Fort Adams State Park.

Chase, a jazz fan and pianist, will introduce the musicians performing on the festival’s main stage, including Aretha Franklin, Sonny Rollins and Herbie Hancock.

In college, Chase, 64, played drums in a jazz band with Walter Becker and Donald Fagen, who later became famous as Steely Dan. Before his star turn on the opening 1975 season of “Saturday Night Live,” a then unknown Chase frequented the Village Vanguard and other New York clubs where he became friendly with many jazz

legends. Miles Davis even invited him to sit in one night in place of his drummer Tony Williams.

Fortune teller made famous by Springsteen has died

ASBURY PARK, N.J. (AP)—Fortune teller Madam Marie, a figure of rock ‘n’ roll mythology thanks to Bruce Springsteen, has died. She was in her mid-90s.

Sally Castello tells the Asbury Park Press that her great-grandmother, Marie Castello, died Friday. The psychic reader and adviser began telling fortunes on the Asbury Park Boardwalk in New Jersey in the 1930s.

Madam Marie became famous in 1973 when Springsteen paid homage to her in the song “4th of July, Asbury Park (Sandy).”

His lyric, “Did you hear, the cops finally busted Madam Marie for tellin’ fortunes better than they do,” cemented her fame.

Actors’ union, theater producers reach agreement

NEW YORK (AP)—The actors’ union and Broadway theater producers have reached a tentative agreement for a new 39-month contract that covers Broadway shows and touring productions.

Actors’ Equity Association and the Broadway League, which represents both producers and theater owners, had been negotiating past the deadline of midnight Sunday, when the last contract expired.

The contract agreement, announced Wednesday in a joint statement, averts the possibility of a strike. Stagehands walked off the job in November, shutting down more than two dozen Broadway shows for 19 days and costing producers and the city of New York millions of dollars in lost revenue.

More details on the actors’ new contract were expected later Wednesday.

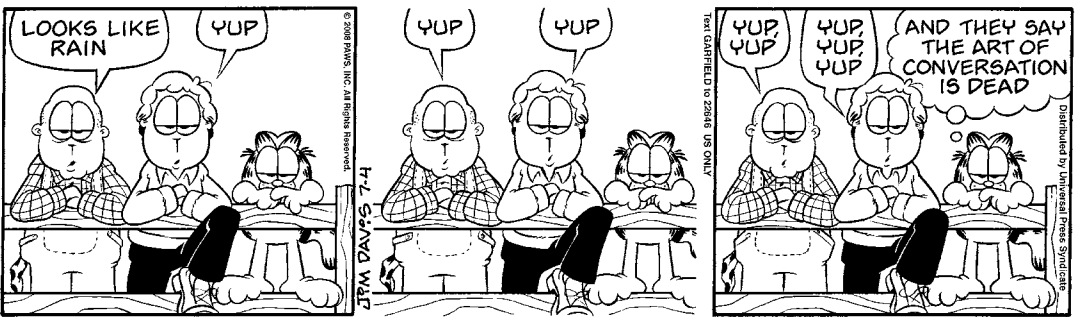
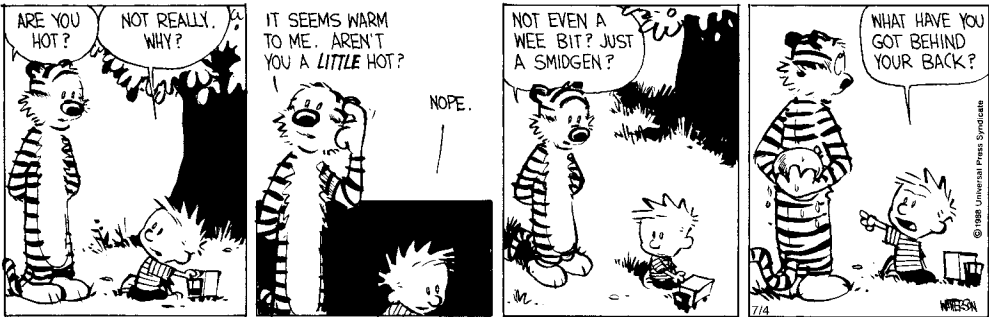
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

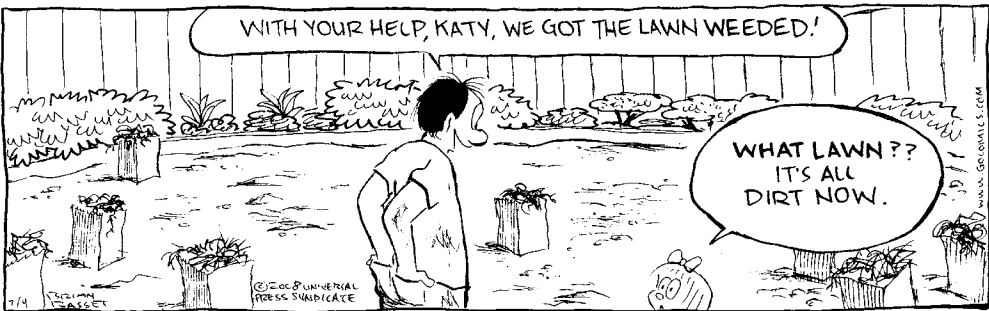


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 — Mahal

4 "Clue" weapon

8 Piquancy

12 Buckeyes' sch.

13 Mideast gulf

14 Jam ingredi-ent?

15 Periodical

17 Food

18 Singer Campbell

19 O. Henry's specialty

20 Island flora

22 Greet silently

24 Rainbow

25 Tramp

29 X rating?

30 Buffalo

31 Victory gesture

32 Annoying follower

34 Astute

35 Lightning stroke

36 Hitchcock menacers

37 Large, showy parrot

DOWN

40 Congers, e.g.

41 Grand story

42 19th-century violin

46 Carte

47 Hebrew month

48 Menag-erie

49 Erstwhile partners

50 Lincoln in-law

51 Ostrich's cousin

1 Male cat

2 Simile center

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	A	R	R	M	O	T	S	U	E	T
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Yesterday's answer 7-4

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49				50					51	

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Becki Newton, 30; Geraldo Rivera, 65; Neil Simon, 81; Abigail Van Buren, 90

Happy Birthday: Don't let temptation lead you to spend your savings. Size up your situation and turn a wrong into a right or tidy up a mess that has been hanging over your head. You can't move forward without taking care of the small but important details essential to your future. Your numbers are 12, 18, 24, 27, 38, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Disagreements will develop. Making changes without telling anyone may be the only way you will get things done to your specifications. Be prepared to defend your reasoning when someone catches on. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Time spent at home will build a strong relationship with family and friends. Open your doors to the people you care about most. A promise will be made that will ensure you get the help you need. A past partner will want to reconnect. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Lighten up and use your imagination for something worthwhile. A change within one of your relationships can be expected. Consider the pros and cons and move on if necessary. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Consider what you are going to do regarding money -- how you can make more or if you should pick up additional skills. Love is apparent, so plan a fun-filled evening conducive to intimacy with your current partner or finding

someone new, if you are single. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stop letting the little things bother you so much. Giving in to pressure will only leave you feeling emotionally drained. Don't exacerbate the situation by trying too hard to please everyone. Be true to yourself. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't count on getting help from others, even if you are owed favors. Put your own steam behind anything you want to accomplish. A little love and playtime will be a perfect way to end your day. An evening out or in will lead to greater intimacy. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take any help being offered but make sure that you are the one in the spotlight. Presenting something you believe in will help you get a better handle on how you can take it to the next level. Don't let your personal life interfere with business or financial goals. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't worry so much about what anyone else does or says. Be honest about your own feelings and you will have no regrets. Love is in the picture. A short pleasure trip will give you time to enjoy the company of someone special. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stop procrastinating when you should be putting your plans in motion. Having fun is fine but only if the work is complete. If you have some old debts to pay, now is the time to clear your overhead. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Love should be highlighted and an effort to make your life more meaningful your main concern. Relationships and sharing with someone you love should be your motivation to do well, not the other way around. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be forced to deal with emotional issues, especially if you have been avoiding some questions regarding your feelings. If someone isn't treating you well or not being honest, reevaluate the relationship and say exactly how you feel. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Finish up any project you are working on before you take off for the weekend. A job well done will bring about an interesting proposal. Love is in the stars so don't neglect your personal relationships. ***

Birthday Baby: You have a flair for drama. You are entertaining, talkative and a wonderful storyteller. You love a good challenge and make a great team player.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

				9	6	8				
						5				
9	7		4							
8						1				
5			4						3	
		6								5
					5		2	7		
		4								
		8	6	1						

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 7/04

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	8	2	3	5	1	7	9	6
5	1	7	6	9	8	4	2	3
9	6	3	7	2	4	5	8	1
8	5	1	4	3	2	6	7	9
6	3	4	8	7	9	1	5	2
7	2	9	5	1	6	8	3	4
2	4	5	9	6	7	3	1	8
3	9	8	1	4	5	2	6	7
1	7	6	2	8	3	9	4	5

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CROCHET PATTERNS Solution: 6 letters

S	W	E	T	K	A	R	T	I	S	A	N	P	A	E
A	E	O	C	O	Y	R	E	D	I	O	R	B	M	E
F	Y	I	V	A	T	K	G	T	I	O	B	I	R	
S	H	E	L	E	L	E	H	N	R	E	E	G	U	
T	S	P	N	I	N	M	S	T	D	L	N	A	U	
H	L	U	S	I	O	A	E	E	L	E	T	D	R	C
C	I	R	B	A	F	D	R	I	E	E	I	E	U	
T	P	S	R	O	W	S	S	D	T	Q	N	D	M	R
A	P	E	K	O	O	H	L	A	U	N	K	G	I	T
W	E	S	H	O	M	E	M	A	K	E	R	D	T	S
S	R	H	T	E	S	B	L	N	V	R	N	A	G	H
P	S	C	N	I	O	I	O	O	H	U	O	A	Y	A
O	P	T	A	U	T	T	L	O	W	B	B	B	W	
O	A	R	Y	S	C	A	R	V	E	S	N	A	L	
L	C	P	P	O	N	C	H	O	S	K	O	O	B	L

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Amigurumi, Artisan, Baby, Bags, Beaded, Books, Borders, Caps, Dollies, Embellishment, Embroidery, Fabric, Fashion, Fine, Home-maker, Hook, Item, Knit, Knot, Labor, Lace, Length, Loops, Love, Needles, Patch, Poncho, Printed, Purses, Quality, Round, Rows, Scarves, Shawl, Silk, Slippers, Stitch, Structure, Swatch, Tam-bour, Thick, Totes, Toys, Wool, Woven, Yarn

Yesterday's Answer: Preserve

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just \$4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Includes \$3 postage for the first book order, \$1 path for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6588. Sorry, no online orders for this special offer.

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Date of Birth : April 17, 1983
Passport No.: G25186845
Date of Issue: Oct. 31, 2007

LOST PASSPORT

Name : ZHENG QINGYING
Date of Birth : Sept. 20, 1972
Passport No.: 140920627
Date of Issue: April 21, 1995

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Federer routs Ancic at Wimbledon; gets Safin next



WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—

Lest anyone forget that Roger Federer has, indeed, lost at Wimbledon, the BBC filled time during a rain delay Wednesday by rolling tape of his 2002 first-round exit against Mario Ancic.

That, of course, was the last time Federer stepped on a court at the All England Club—or anywhere on grass, for that matter—and walked away without winning.

Once Wednesday's weather cleared up, Federer faced off against Ancic on Centre Court once more, only this time they were playing in the 2008 quarterfinals, and it was no contest whatsoever. The top-ranked Federer dismissed Ancic 6-1, 7-5, 6-4 to extend all manner of streaks: 39 consecutive wins at Wimbledon, 64 consecutive wins on grass, and 17 consecutive semifinal appearances at Grand Slam tournaments.

There were other numbers at which to marvel, not the least of which was this: Federer won 61 of 71 points on his serve.

Asked afterward if he could pick one match over his career that stands out from the rest in terms of quality, Federer replied, "Thankfully, I get those moments quite often, actually."

So there.

If anyone wondered whether the thumping he took from Rafael Nadal in last month's French Open final might have a lasting effect on Federer, it sure doesn't sound as though there's anything wrong with his confidence—particularly here.

"I'll have a chance to win this tournament for the next five or 10 years," said Federer, whose semifinal opponent Friday is the resurgent Marat Safin, a former No. 1 player who owns two Grand Slam titles.

"My game's made for grass," Federer continued. "There will



Switzerland's Roger Federer reacts after winning his quarterfinal match against Croatia's Mario Ancic on the Centre Court at Wimbledon, Wednesday, July 2, 2008.

always be tough opponents, dangerous opponents. That has been the case for the last years, as well. But I found a way to win always. Of course, my dream is to not only win this year, but many more years to come."

He is trying to become the first man since 1886 to win Wimbledon six years in a row. Pete Sampras never did it. Neither did Bjorn Borg. The only man who did? Willie Renshaw, and he only needed to win one match in each of his five title defenses, because back then the reigning champion got a bye into the final.

Federer is forced to navigate a tougher path, and the expectation this year has been that he will face his nemesis Nadal in a third straight Wimbledon championship match. The sec-

ond-ranked Nadal moved closer to that by overwhelming 12th-seeded Andy Murray of Britain 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 for his 22nd consecutive victory overall.

Just like Federer did against Ancic, Nadal avoided facing a single break point against Murray, who was in his first major quarterfinal.

"I feel like the return is normally a strong part of my game. I had no chance at all really on his serve, which was a shame," Murray said. "He's improved his game a lot on the grass in the last couple of years. Definitely, he's the second-best grass-court player behind Federer. He's definitely closer to him this year than he was."

Nadal agreed with that assessment.

He's trying to make a little

history of his own: No man has won the French Open and Wimbledon in the same year since Borg in 1980.

"I am doing a lot of things better than last year," Nadal said. "Slice better. The position on court, in my opinion, I felt like this is better. Playing more aggressive with the forehand all the time, and the backhand is feeling well, too."

The four-time French Open champion knows he'll be facing an unseeded player next, but he doesn't know which one. The quarterfinal between 94th-ranked Rainer Schuettler and 145th-ranked Arnaud Clement was suspended because of darkness at one set apiece.

They're slated to resume play Thursday, when the forecast calls for showers, and whatever

the outcome, Nadal would be an overwhelming favorite.

Safin acknowledges Federer should be looked upon that way in their matchup.

"I'm playing semifinals, but that doesn't mean that I have a chance there, because the guy has won how many times already here?" Safin said after beating No. 31 Feliciano Lopez 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (1), 6-3. "To beat Federer you need to be Nadal and run around like a rabbit and hit winners from all over the place. ... It's just a little bit too difficult for me to beat him."

Especially if Federer plays the way he did Wednesday.

He served brilliantly, including 15 aces—one on each of the final three points. He returned just as well, handling Ancic's 130 mph serves and limiting him to nine aces, half of what the Croat was averaging in the tournament.

Federer broke Ancic four times, and even when he didn't, made him work. The third set's opening game, for example, took 16 minutes, with 10 deuces and four break points, before Ancic finally held. It lasted 26 points, and Federer won 12—or, put another way, two more than Ancic took off Federer's serve

all match.

"There's not one point you get for free," said Ancic, a Wimbledon semifinalist in 2005.

The All England Club was the only Grand Slam site where Safin hadn't reached the final four. He came to Wimbledon with a 10-13 record this season, a ranking of 75th and a well-documented distaste for the place, from the grass to the weather to the high price of strawberries and cream.

But he's played fantastically, beating No. 3 Novak Djokovic and three other seeded players. Federer knows how talented the 6-foot-4 Russian is.

"I never looked at Marat like No. 80 or 90 in the world. I mean, that's ridiculous. He knows that himself," Federer said. "He's finally showing again what he can do. It's just quite surprising he does it here at Wimbledon."

One of Federer's two losses in 10 matches against Safin came in the 2005 Australian Open semifinals, 9-7 in the fifth set.

"Marat knows how to beat me," Federer noted. "That was a hard one. I'm going to try to get him back for that one."

As Ancic knows all too well, Federer can follow through on such thoughts.

NFL BRIEFS

Chargers' Foley settles with police officer

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Former San Diego Chargers linebacker Steve Foley has agreed to settle his lawsuit against a police officer who shot him off-duty two years ago and ended his pro football career. Foley attorney Harvey Levine says the settlement was reached with Officer Aaron Mansker and his employer, the city of Coronado, on Wednesday before testimony resumed in the week-old civil trial. Levine says financial terms are confidential. Foley's suit sought millions of dollars in damages as compensation for lost past and future earnings. The player was shot in his leg, hip and hand in September 2006 after Mansker followed his car home on suspicion the driver was drunk. Foley pleaded guilty in 2007 to misdemeanor drunken driving.

Judge declares mistrial for former Bengal WR

CINCINNATI (AP)—A judge has declared a mistrial in the assault case of former Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chris Henry. An eight-person jury in Cincinnati told the judge Tuesday they were unable to agree on a verdict. Hamilton County Municipal Judge Richard Bernat then dismissed the jury and set a hearing for July 8. Eighteen-year-old Gregory Meyer accused Henry of punching him in the face in March. The 25-year-old Henry said he was acting in self-defense.

The judge earlier dismissed a criminal damaging charge that alleged Henry had broken Meyer's car window with a beer bottle in the altercation. The Bengals released Henry on April 3 after his fifth arrest since 2005, and last month he was suspended indefinitely by the NFL.

Patriots DB Andrews arrested for assault with gun

MANSFIELD, Mass. (AP)—New England Patriots defensive back Willie Andrews was held without bail Monday after allegedly pointing a handgun at his girlfriend's head. Andrews was arrested Monday after the alleged incident that occurred at about 1 a.m. after he returned home and an argument began between him and his girlfriend, according to Gregg Miliote, director of communications for the Bristol County district attorney's office. Andrews, a backup since being drafted by the Patriots in the last round in 2006, was charged with illegal possession of a large capacity firearm and assault with a dangerous weapon, Miliote said. He said Andrews was held without bail pending the results of a dangerousness hearing Thursday. "The New England Patriots take the conduct of our players very seriously," the team said in a statement. "We are aware of the very disturbing and alarming reports regarding Willie Andrews. We will not offer any additional comment, as is our policy regarding pending legal matters."

Favre considers return to NFL or does he?



GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Brett Favre dismissed an ESPN report that he's considering coming out of retirement as "all rumor."

Favre responded Wednesday to the ESPN report by telling his hometown newspaper Web site, SunHerald.com in Gulfport, Miss., that "it's all rumor."

The paper reported that Favre sent a text message saying there's "no reason" for a media frenzy.

ESPN reported that an unidentified Packers source said the 38-year-old Favre told coach Mike McCarthy in the past two weeks that he has the itch to play.

"The Packers have no reaction," team spokesman Jeff Blum told The Associated Press.

Favre's agent, James "Bus" Cook, didn't return a message

seeking comment. Packers general manager Ted Thompson and McCarthy were on vacation.

Favre retired March 6 after a 17-year career.

Cornerback Al Harris said on ESPN's "NFL Live" that Favre made similar comments to him.

"I know he has the itch to come back and play," Harris said. "If he will or not, I don't know."

The Packers plan to use Aaron Rodgers as their starting quarterback for the upcoming season, and he's been leading the team through organized team activities and minicamp.

Rodgers has been groomed to take over for Favre since being selected in the first round in 2005, but has played sparingly.

"Aaron is our quarterback," Harris said. "Brett's retired. But if he wanted to come back, there would be some guys who wouldn't mind it. I would

welcome him back with open arms."

Favre has two years left on his contract at an average of about \$12.5 million per season. The Packers placed him on the reserve-retired list in the spring so his salary does not now count toward the cap.

Favre's commitment to retirement has been questioned since his announcement. That talk resumed in mid-June when Favre withdrew from the American Century Celebrity Golf Championship at Lake Tahoe, scheduled for July 11-13.

Tournament spokesman Steve Griffith said then that Favre had to miss the event because of a scheduling conflict.

When he retired, a teary Favre said, "I've given everything I possibly could give to this organization, the game of football, and I don't think I've got

anything left to give. And that's it. I know I can play. But I don't think I want to."

But less than two months later, he told reporters he might be open to returning if Rodgers was injured.

Favre, a three-time MVP, leads the league with 442 touchdown passes, 61,655 yards passing and 160 career victories. He started 253 consecutive regular-season games, more than any other quarterback in history. Including the playoffs, his streak stands at 275.

Rodgers, meanwhile, has stirred up controversy himself this week. In a Sports Illustrated article, the quarterback said he didn't feel pressure to connect with fans the way Favre did.

"I don't feel I need to sell myself to the fans," he said in the article. "They need to get on board now or keep their mouths shut."

Last-minute deal lets Sonics move to Oklahoma City



SEATTLE (AP)—Clay Bennett finally found a dollar amount that would sever his contentious relationship with the city of Seattle—\$75 million.

As a result, the SuperSonics are headed to Oklahoma City with Bennett leading the way, leaving behind the team name, colors and 41 years of history.

Oklahoma City will have an NBA franchise for the 2008-09 season after a settlement announced Wednesday between the team and the city of Seattle, ending the clashing bond with the city that culminated in a six-day federal trial over terms of the team's KeyArena lease. The judge was scheduled to rule Wednesday afternoon.

"We made it," Bennett said after stepping to an Oklahoma City podium featuring the NBA logo and the letters OKC. "The NBA will be in Oklahoma City next season."

The settlement calls for Bennett and his Professional Basketball Club LLC to pay as much as \$75 million to the city in exchange for the immediate termination of the lease. The team's name and colors will be staying in Seattle.

Bennett said the move would start Thursday and the first focus would be on the SuperSonics' players.

"In a perfect world I would have liked to see Clay Bennett leave, without the team at all," said Steven Pyeatt, the co-founder of Save Our Sonics.

It's a victory for Bennett, who purchased the Sonics in 2006 from Starbucks Corp. chairman Howard Schultz for \$350 million, and will take the franchise to his

hometown. Bennett faced harsh criticism in Seattle for his efforts in trying to build a new arena as a replacement for KeyArena, and the presumption he wanted to move the franchise all along.

"It was a tough experience for all of us that were involved in it. There was just so much that happened on both sides, so much

authorizes at least \$75 million in public funding to renovate KeyArena by the end of 2009 and Seattle doesn't obtain an NBA franchise of its own within the next five years.

The settlement could become a victory for Seattle as well. In a statement, NBA commissioner David Stern reversed his previous

statement. "If this funding were authorized, we believe KeyArena could properly be renovated into a facility that meets NBA standards relating to revenue generation, fan amenities, team facilities, and the like."

However, Stern added, "given the lead times associated with any franchise acquisition or

Mayor Greg Nickels signed a binding agreement Wednesday, which would be formalized later, that keeps the SuperSonics' name, logo and colors available if Seattle gets a replacement franchise. Bennett said his franchise would create duplicate championship banners and trophies, leaving one set in Seattle and using the second set for undetermined purposes in Oklahoma City.

"We have 30 million reasons why we have support for a future NBA team," Seattle city attorney Tom Carr said.

In April, the NBA Board of Governors approved Bennett's application to move the team to Oklahoma City, pending the outcome of the trial between the team and the city. The settlement came six days after the trial concluded.

"A really exciting day. We had been gearing up for the 2010 season, and to find out the team's coming two years early is a bonus," Oklahoma City mayor Mick Cornett said.

The settlement doesn't cover a pending lawsuit filed by Schultz, who is seeking to regain control of the team. Schultz claims that Bennett didn't follow through on an agreement to negotiate in good faith for a new arena in Seattle for one full year before seeking relocation options.

"We believe it's baseless, has no merit. We will fight it vigorously," Bennett said of that lawsuit.

Schultz's attorney, Richard Yarmuth said his client's law-

suit will move forward. As part of the settlement, if the PBC is prevented from playing in Oklahoma City during the next two seasons because of Schultz's lawsuit, the city will be required to repay Bennett's group \$22.5 million for each season. If the team is required to play in KeyArena for those two seasons, Bennett's group is released from the additional \$30 million it would owe the city.

"We're not a party to this settlement and in fact we chose not to participate in it," Yarmuth said.

The trial between the team and city was centered on the lease agreement that called for the Sonics to play at KeyArena through the 2009-10 season. Sonics lead attorney Brad Keller contended that Bennett should simply be able to write a check to satisfy the final two years of the lease. Keller argued that the "specific performance" clause the city rested its case on should not apply in a garden-variety dispute between tenant and landlord.

Bennett and his ownership group previously offered to pay the city \$26.5 million in February to buy out the final two years of the lease. They were rebuffed.

Nickels noted that Wednesday's settlement would cover lost rent, tax revenue and pay off the remaining debt on KeyArena.

"I believed all along enforcing our lease would allow us time to come to a better arrangement," Nickels said. "We now have that deal."

Beasley catches elbow, leaves first Heat practice

MIAMI (AP)—Michael Beasley's first official practice with the Miami Heat ended quickly.

Beasley was struck in the chest by an inadvertent elbow during a defensive drill about 45 minutes into Miami's first summer-league workout session Wednesday, and the No. 2 overall pick in last week's NBA draft was taken to a doctor for observation.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said the move was strictly precautionary and should not affect Beasley's availability for Miami's five-games-in-five-days run through the Orlando summer league, which opens Monday.

"He took a shot to the chest," Spoelstra said. "He probably could have finished if it was the regular season or something like that, but we just wanted to be safe."

Spoelstra said he wasn't absolutely certain which Heat summer player was the one that struck Beasley.

"I looked and one minute he was there and the next minute he was gone," Heat guard Daequan Cook said. "I have no idea what happened."

The team did not immediately release an update on the extent of Beasley's injury or what sort

of tests were being performed on the rookie, who averaged 26.2 points and 12.4 rebounds last season for Kansas State.

"He was very eager to learn what we were doing, especially defensively what we wanted to get accomplished in this practice," Spoelstra said. "When he gets back out here, he'll be fine and when we get up to Orlando, he'll be fine."

Beasley was gone by the time practice was open to reporters and not available for comment. His agent, Joel Bell, did not return a phone message.

There was one piece of good news on Wednesday for Beasley. He signed his rookie scale contract with the Heat, one that will pay him at much as \$4.3 million this coming season.

Later Wednesday, Miami also announced the signings of center David Padgett and guard Jason Richards. Padgett shot 67 percent from the floor this past season at Louisville, and Richards led Division I with 293 assists as a senior at Davidson, which lost to eventual NCAA champion Kansas in the Midwest regional final.

"It seems like the best situation and the best opportunity for me, so I'm taking advantage of it," Padgett said.



Seattle SuperSonics owner Clay Bennett smiles during a news conference in Oklahoma City, Wednesday, July 2, 2008. The Sonics will move to Oklahoma City for the 2008-09 season as part of a settlement announced Wednesday with the city of Seattle

misinterpreted, miscommunicated and misunderstood that it was difficult," Bennett said.

Bennett announced that the settlement calls for a payment of \$45 million immediately, and would include another \$30 million paid to Seattle in 2013 if the state Legislature in Washington

stance and said that a renovated KeyArena could be a suitable venue for an NBA franchise in Seattle. But the time is short.

"We understand that city, county, and state officials are currently discussing a plan to substantially rebuild KeyArena for the sum of \$300 million," Stern said in a

relocation and with a construction project as complex as a KeyArena renovation, authorization of the public funding needs to occur by the end of 2009 in order for there to be any chance for the NBA to return to Seattle within the next five years."

Bennett said he and Seattle

Paul meets with Hornets, but deal still pending

WESTGEO, La. (AP)—Chris Paul left the New Orleans Hornets training center on Wednesday afternoon without a new contract extension in place, but his agent remained optimistic the deal would be completed without much trouble—even if it took longer than anticipated.

"We felt like it went well ... and we'll get it wrapped up sometime soon," said Lance Young, senior director of the sports management and marketing company Octagon, which represents Paul.

Young flew into New Orleans on Wednesday morning and spent the day with Paul and Hornets general manager Jeff Bower. Paul left abruptly Wednesday afternoon without making any comment.

Young emerged from Bower's office a couple hours later.

"We're all on the same page, so we'll be able to get it worked out," Young said as he walked to his vehicle. "I don't think we're in any real rush to get it done."

Young said he was unsure whether he would return to Bower's office at the Alario

Center on Thursday.

Paul is trying to decide between a four-year deal worth \$68 million or a five-year extension worth \$87 million, Young said.

The extension would go into effect after next season, the last season covered by the contract Paul signed as a rookie in the summer of 2005.

Last season, Paul led the NBA with averages of 11.6 assists and 2.7 steals. He was the Hornets' second-leading scorer, averaging 21.1 points per game in helping the Hornets reach a franchise-record 56 regular season victories.

Paul's performance and efforts to aid New Orleans' recovery from Hurricane Katrina may have saved pro basketball in a city that was in danger of losing its pro teams after the devastating storm struck in August 2005.

Sellouts became the norm during the second half of last season and the playoffs.

The Hornets have sold more than 5,000 new season tickets for next season while retaining about 90 percent of last season's season-ticket holders. The

Hornets now have about 10,000 season-ticket holders, the most they've had since moving to New Orleans from Charlotte for the 2002-03 season.

Bower, along with head coach Byron Scott and team majority owner George Shinn, have said extending Paul's contract is a top priority.

The belief is that locking in Paul, a top playmaker who helped teammates David West and Tyson Chandler flourish, should help the Hornets entice and keep a supporting cast needed to contend for an NBA title.

Looking for immediate help heading into next season, the Hornets last week traded away their only draft choice, Kansas forward Darrell Arthur, to the Portland Trail Blazers for \$3 million as part of a strategy to sign proven free agents.

New Orleans will attempt to re-sign backup point guard Jannero Pargo, who opted out of the final year of his contract. The Hornets also have inquired about Boston Celtics forward James Posey, according

to agent Mark Bartelstein, who represents Pargo, Posey and P.J. Brown.

Bartelstein said Brown, who lives in suburban New Orleans and played with Boston last season, is enjoying his first NBA championship and is undecided about whether he might play, coach or simply relax next season, when he'll turn 39.

The Hornets also have asked about Jarvis Hayes and Juan Dixon, who both played for Detroit last season, according to their agent, Mitch Butler.

"The Hornets are definitely interested in trying to enhance their bench and believe Hayes and Dixon, with their ability to shoot the ball, could provide just that," Butler said.

Butler said both players "like the situation" in New Orleans.

"Obviously they believe New Orleans is a championship caliber team. They have an MVP-type player on their team," Butler said. "They've got a great supporting cast. They both feel like it would be a great opportunity to have chance to win an NBA championship."

Phillies beat Braves, 7-3, to remain unbeaten in Atlanta



ATLANTA (AP)—Ryan Howard hit a three-run homer

and Pat Burrell added a solo shot as Philadelphia survived a ninth-inning scare to beat Atlanta 7-3 on Wednesday night.

The Phillies improved to 5-0 in Atlanta this season and 7-1 overall in the season series.

The Braves (40-45) fell a season-worst five games under .500 with their second straight loss in the series, despite homers from Chipper Jones and Ruben Gotay.

Jones, playing his second game after missing eight straight starts with a strained right quadriceps, hit his 17th homer off J.C. Romero in the eighth, cutting the Phillies' lead to 5-3.

The Phillies answered with two runs in the ninth on Jimmy Rollins' RBI triple and Chase Utley's run-scoring single.

The Braves loaded the bases against Brad Lidge in the ninth on one hit and two fielding errors by Howard at first base but Lidge struck out Mark Teixeira to end the game.

Marlins 4, Nationals 2

At Miami, Alfredo Amezaga hit a go-ahead, two-run home run in seventh inning to lead Florida past Washington when play resumed after a 1 1/2-hour rain delay.

Florida trailed 2-1 when the game was halted with one and two outs in the seventh for 1 hour, 35 minutes. Charlie Manning (0-2) relieved starter Odalis Perez after the delay, and Amezaga hit his second home run of the season and 11th in 1,106 career at-bats.

Wes Helms added a sacrifice fly in the eighth.

Ricky Nolasco (9-4) improved to 4-0 in his last five starts, allowing two runs and three hits in seven innings. Kevin Gregg threw a perfect ninth for his 15th save.

Pirates 9, Reds 5

At Cincinnati, Xavier Nady homered twice and drove in four runs to lead Pittsburgh, which lost another pitcher to injury.

Closer Matt Capps will be gone for about eight weeks after a medical test detected bursitis and tightness in his pitching shoulder. Capps is the fourth Pittsburgh pitcher to wind up on the disabled list in the last two weeks.

The rest of the bullpen came through, helping the Pirates win consecutive road games for only the second time this season.



Tampa Bay Rays' Evan Longoria, right, and teammate Carlos Pena celebrate after scoring on Rays' Jason Bartlett's two-run, seventh-inning single off Boston Red Sox's Javier Lopez during a baseball game Wednesday July 2, 2008, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Nady had a run-scoring single, a solo homer and a two-run shot off right-hander Daryl Thompson (0-2), who got hit hard in his third major league start.

Dodgers 4, Astros 1

At Houston, Hiroki Kuroda threw seven shutout innings after coming off the disabled list, and Jeff Kent had two RBI-doubles as Los Angeles downed Houston.

Kuroda (4-6) allowed five hits in his first start since going on the DL on June 18 with tendinitis in his right shoulder.

Andre Ethier hit a solo homer and Blake DeWitt scored on Luis Maza's squeeze bunt for the Dodgers, who have won five of their last six road games.

Carlos Lee homered in the ninth off Cory Wade for Houston's only run. Wade relieved Kuroda in the eighth and retired the other six batters he faced.

The Dodgers scored all their runs off Runelvys Hernandez (0-2), who was making his second start since replacing Shawn Chacon in the Astros' rotation.

Rockies 8, Padres 1

At Denver, Garrett Atkins, Troy Tulowitzki and Yorvit Torrealba homered to lead Colorado past San Diego.

Atkins drove in four runs and Ubaldo Jimenez pitched into the seventh inning for his second win in his last three starts.

Colorado scored seven runs in the first three innings against Randy Wolf (5-8).

Atkins singled in a run in the first and followed Matt Holliday's RBI single in the third with a three-run drive, his 11th of the year. Tulowitzki added a two-run homer in the third, his third of the year.

Torrealba connected in the eighth against Carlos Guevara to make it 8-1.

Chase Headley homered for the Padres, who have lost 15 of 18 games.

Cubs 6, Giants 5

At San Francisco, Mike Fontenot hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning for Chicago.

Jim Edmonds homered for the Cubs, who have scored 16 runs in the first three games of this four-game series after being held to nine runs while getting swept by the Chicago White Sox over the weekend.

Carlos Marmol (2-3) picked up the win despite giving up a tying three-run homer to Ray Durham in the seventh. Kerry Wood worked the ninth for his 21st save.

Fontenot homered off Tyler Walker (3-4), his fifth of the season and second in four games.

Edmonds hit a two-run homer off starter Kevin Correia in the sixth for the Cubs, who won for the sixth times in 15 games.

Rays 7, Red Sox 6

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Evan Longoria went 3-for-4 and drove in three runs as Tampa Bay beat Boston to complete their second three-game sweep of the World Series champions this season.

The Rays improved the best record in baseball to 52-32, rallying from a three-run deficit in the seventh inning and extending their lead in the AL East to a franchise-best 3 1/2 games over the second-place Red Sox.

Boston matched a season high with its fifth consecutive loss.

Tampa Bay is 6-0 at home against Boston, which has swept two three-game series from the Rays at Fenway Park.

Longoria had an RBI single off Daisuke Matsuzaka in the first inning, and his two-run double off Craig Hansen (1-3) was the big blow in a six-run seventh. The rookie has 15 RBIs in his last 10 games.

Yankees 18, Rangers 7

At New York, Jason Giambi hit a grand slam and drove in a season-high six runs and Alex Rodriguez added a three-run homer as New York avoided a series sweep to Texas.

The Yankees scored just seven runs and batted .172 in losing three of their last four games.

Rodriguez scored four times, the last coming on his line-drive homer to right during the Yankees' season-high nine-run seventh inning. It was Rodriguez's 535th homer, moving him past Jimmie Foxx for 14th on the career list and within one of Mickey Mantle.

Milton Bradley and Chris Davis hit two-run homers for the Rangers, who are 0-7 this season after taking the first two games of a three-game series. Josh Hamilton drove in two runs.

White Sox 6, Indians 5, 10 innings

At Chicago, A.J. Pierzynski led off the bottom of 10th with his second homer of the game and Chicago won its seventh straight.

Masa Kobayashi (4-4) pitched a perfect ninth then Pierzynski drove the first pitch of the 10th for his seventh homer.

Grady Sizemore's second solo homer of the game tied it at 5 off Scott Linebrink in the ninth.

Adam Russell (2-0) worked the 10th for his second win in as many nights and the second of his career.

Twins 7, Tigers 0

At Minneapolis, Nick Blackburn combined with two relievers on a five-hitter, and Joe Mauer's two-out, two-run single sparked a five-run third inning for Minnesota against Detroit.

Minnesota took two of three from the Tigers and has won 13 of its last 15 games. Detroit, which had won 18 of 22 coming into the series, was shut out for the 10th time this season, the most in the major leagues.

The Twins have outscored the Tigers 39-17 in six games at the Metrodome

this year, winning five.

Blackburn (7-4) allowed three hits in seven innings, struck out four and walked one. Jesse Crain allowed two hits in the eighth, and Boof Bonser pitched a 1-2-3 ninth.

Angels 7, Athletics 4

At Anaheim, California, Joe Saunders pitched into the seventh inning to match Brandon Webb for the major league lead with his 12th win, and Juan Rivera and Eric Aybar homered for the Angels.

Saunders (12-4) allowed four runs—two earned—and six hits in 6 1-3 innings to help Los Angeles open up a 5 1/2-game lead over its American League West rivals.

Francisco Rodriguez pitched a scoreless ninth for his major league-leading 34th save in 36 attempts, tying John Smoltz's 2003 record for the most before the All-Star break.

Orioles 5, Royals 2

At Baltimore, Daniel Cabrera pitched a seven-hitter to earn his first victory since May 20, and Aubrey Huff homered in Baltimore's win over Kansas City.

Cabrera (6-4) retired 13 straight batters before David DeJesus singled with two outs in the eighth. He struck out two and walked none in his second complete game of the season, both against the Royals.

Cabrera is 5-0 with a 2.21 ERA lifetime against Kansas City, and the Orioles are 8-0 in his eight career starts against the Royals.

Gil Meche (6-9) allowed five runs, four earned, and nine hits in six innings. He is winless at Camden Yards in 10 career starts.

Ramon Hernandez had three hits for the Orioles, who improved to 5-2 against Kansas City to clinch the season series for a fifth consecutive year.

Mariners 4, Blue Jays 2

At Seattle, Miguel Cairo drove in three runs with two doubles as Seattle beat Toronto.

Cairo, making just his second start at second base, drove in the game's first run with a two-out double in the third off Dustin McGowan (6-7). Raul Ibanez followed with a run-scoring single.

The Blue Jays tied the game on Adam Lind's two-run homer in the fifth.

Cairo hit a two-run double in the bottom of the inning. The two doubles doubled his season total to four. He has 10 RBIs.

Johnson ready for challenge of leading NBA refs



NEW YORK (AP)—Ron Johnson spent 32 years in the military leading people through difficult situations. He quickly found another challenge when he retired from the Army.

Johnson is the NBA's new senior vice president of referee operations, where the two-star general will oversee a department that has spent the last year dealing with the fallout from the scandal involving Tim Donaghy, who pleaded guilty to betting on games he officiated and later accused some former colleagues of misconduct.

"This is an incredible leadership challenge," Johnson said Wednesday during a phone interview. "Leading soldiers or people, I'm used to my people being dispersed across the

country, but there's some intermediate leader there in charge of them. But we've got 60 highly talented people that live all across the United States and there's a different leadership challenge there, so I'm excited about how I'm going to do that."

Johnson has heard from some of the referees, and doesn't believe morale is low among them. But the Donaghy situation has put them in a difficult spot. Already used to dealing with criticisms of their competency, they've also been subjected to speculation about their credibility following the new round of allegations Donaghy charged them with last month.

Johnson knows about that, too. He was deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, responsible for overseeing \$18 billion

of reconstruction in Iraq in 2003-04, and remembers reading some unkind words of the work they did.

"What I do know is having been in that position when some guy writes an article that said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers doesn't know how to do construction, that impacts me in a personal way because I'm part of that team," Johnson said. "And so you kind of deal with that, you read what the guy has to say, evaluate it and then you move on."

"So with people questioning the values and ethics of referees because of one guy, I really don't believe that people are doing that. I think people are smarter than that."

When the NBA decided last fall to split the basketball operations department and hire someone to oversee the

referee programs, commissioner David Stern thought of Johnson. They had met two years ago, when the general came to speak at the league's rookie transition program.

Johnson said Stern told him that he was "not interested in my referee acumen." But Johnson has officiated before, and there are some similarities to situations he faced in the military.

"Typically in the business of the military, things don't go to plan," Johnson said. "You have a plan, you get on the ground and chaos breaks out, we want the soldier to be able to use his or her initiative to achieve the intent of the overall objective."

"Oh by the way, once referees are on the floor, they have to execute the intent, and the intent is to follow the rules like they do and make a judg-

ment decision. I've refereed before, it's not easy."

Johnson said he's read up on the Donaghy situation, but hasn't yet seen the internal investigation that Stern ordered last summer, which won't be completed until after Donaghy is sentenced on July 14.

And even though he's the "new guy" in the office, Johnson shares Stern's belief that he's the right one to lead the referees through their difficult time.

"I'm a general. Everyone's got these preconceived notions about what a general is, and I'm just a guy that has some credible experience and been fortunate enough to lead people in war and peace, and peacetime areas and combat zones," Johnson said. "I've learned a lot doing that and I don't think leading people during hard times is foreign to Ron Johnson."

Congressional field missing a slew of stars



BETHESDA, Md. (AP)—Too bad the PGA Tour doesn't publish a disabled list.

Tiger Woods is out for the rest of the year after surgery on his left knee. Adam Scott is still trying to recover from a broken pinky on his right hand that limited him at Torrey Pines. Vijay Singh injured his ribs in Europe a month ago and has gone to Hawaii for some rest before the British Open. Former Masters champion Zach Johnson is nursing a sore elbow.

The result is what appears to be a mediocre field in the AT&T National.

PGA Tour events that Woods typically doesn't play often get criticized for being meaningless, so it's no small coincidence that it would happen at his own tournament.

Defending champion K.J. Choi and runner-up Steve Stricker are the only two players from the top 10 in the world ranking. There are only five of the top 20, adding Jim Furyk, Masters champion Trevor Immelman and Anthony Kim.

"A good field, very deep," Woods said in a conference call earlier this week.

The second edition of the AT&T National begins Thursday on a Blue Course at Congressional that players have raved about this week, a change from complaints of bumpy putting surfaces a year ago.

But is it a good field? A deep one?

Using the FedEx Cup standings that only measures this year's performance, there are 10 of the top 20 players, which adds tour winners such as Ryuji Imada, J.B. Holmes and D.J. Trahan.

None of this matters to Paul Goydos, who missed the tournament last year and claimed one similarity with Woods.

"He's played half of them, as many as I have," Goydos said.

Goydos blamed the media, and he was half-serious.

"The media is trying to decide what's a good field and what's a bad field, and I



K.J. Choi of South Korea loosens up before teeing off on the first tee during the Earl Woods Memorial Pro-Am of the AT & T National golf tournament at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md., Wednesday, July 2, 2008.

don't think they are very good at deciding that," he said Wednesday. "I think we have these arbitrary rankings, and those are very good at identifying the best couple of players, and maybe the next 10. But are they good at identifying the next 90? In my opinion, no.

"Tour (qualifying) school has got a great field. It's just we had never heard of Anthony Kim. The reality is there

are not any bad fields. It's just a field that hasn't been known as strong yet."

There are still spots in the British Open up for grabs this week, still plenty of money from the \$6 million purse. And for those who feel as if they have been at the U.S. Open a lot this year, Congressional might feel the same way.

The rough—moderate but still pun-

ishing—frames the fairways in classic U.S. Open style, and the greens are better than Stuart Appleby remembered from last year when he closed with a 76 and lost a two-shot lead.

Congressional hosted the U.S. Open in 1997, won by Ernie Els, and will get the U.S. Open in three years.

"Poa annua and smooth is almost an oxymoron," Appleby said. "It's

tough. This week, they seem to be not too puffy. The ball is doing everything that any player would want it to do. For some reason here, they got it right."

Some have wondered if the bumpy conditions last year kept players away. Others point to the European tour season hitting its stride, especially with the British Open only two weeks away.

Sergio Garcia, who won at Congressional three years ago, and Justin Rose are among those playing the European Open in England this week. Els and Phil Mickelson will be playing the Scottish Open next week at Loch Lomond.

And some players had to go through 36-hole qualifying for the British Open on Monday.

PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said it was too early for anyone to worry about the AT&T National drawing the best players, even when the top player is on the DL.

"All of the pieces are here for it to be an especially good tournament," Finchem said. "We have a lot of great players here this week, and one of things we are looking forward to between now and when Tiger comes back is watching to see who steps up. From that standpoint, I'm not too concerned.

"When you add some of the players that are hurt, Tiger being back next year, I really feel good about it."

Choi felt good just seeing the Blue Course again, recalling the situations he was in on every hole and the shots he pulled off, none more important than holing out from a bunker on the 17th that wrapped up his three-shot victory.

"It definitely helps my confidence, and I think it's going to help me a lot this week," Choi said. "I think this course is in very good condition. This course fits my game very well because I hit a lot of high fades. I hope to repeat the same achievement I did last year."

If he does, there will be one big difference.

Woods, who is in a straight knee brace and on crutches, probably won't be around to hand him the trophy.

Source: Diop headed back to Dallas



DALLAS (AP)—The Dallas Mavericks had to give up DeSagana Diop to get Jason Kidd. Now, the 7-foot center is headed back to Dallas.

Diop agreed Wednesday to a \$31 million, five-year contract with the Mavericks, according to a person close to the negotiations who requested anonymity because NBA rules prevent the deal from being signed until next week.

Dallas also has agreed to a one-year, minimum-salary contract with Gerald Green, a 22-year-old former slam dunk champion who had been unemployed since March. He passed a physical Wednesday and paperwork to make the deal official is being finalized. Since he wasn't on a team when last season ended, he can be signed at any time.

In other free agent news, Eddie Jones has exercised his \$2 million option to return next season, when he'll be 37, and the Mavs are trying to keep their other free agents: Devean George, Antoine Wright and J.J. Barea.

Diop is a former lottery pick who was considered a bust after four lousy years in Cleveland. The Mavs signed him for the

2005-06 season and he wound up splitting the center job with Erick Dampier as Dallas reached the NBA finals. He and Dampier shared the job against the following season, when the Mavericks won a franchise-record 67 games.

He was traded to the New Jersey Nets in the blockbuster trade for Kidd. The Nets knew he was headed to free agency—and the Mavs were waiting for him. Dallas showed how badly it wanted him by using its full mid-level exception to seal the deal.

Only 26, his familiar smile and amiable personality are sure to be welcomed back into the locker room.

Dallas will be Green's fourth team in as many seasons. He was drafted 18th overall by Boston in 2005 and won the dunk contest in 2007. He went to Minnesota in the Kevin Garnett trade, then was sent to Houston a few days after finishing second in the '08 dunk contest. The Rockets used him in one game, then released him.

"Sure, it's been humbling," agent Colin Bryant said. "If you're out of the league, you have a lot of time to think about it. That's where his hunger and focus come from. It's a brand new Ger-

ald Green. The rest of the league will soon find that out."

If Green can revert to his teen-prodigy form, his age and athleticism would be an ideal fit for an offense that's looking to run more with Kidd and new coach Rick Carlisle.

"I think it'll be a great fit for him and Jason Kidd," Bryant said. "Jason Kidd is going to make the game real easy for him."

Green won't have to look far for inspiration. Diop revived his career by coming to Dallas when he was 24 and on the verge of falling out of the league, and last season Brandon Bass was only 22 when he developed into a solid member of the rotation after two forgettable years in New Orleans.

With their mid-level exception gone, the Mavericks may be done with free agency, at least the high-profile part. Then again, they've already locked up their centers, feel good about having Dirk Nowitzki and Bass at power forward and are eager to see what Kidd can do over a full season.

Once Green, Jones and Diop are officially signed, Dallas will have 10 players under contract.

Celtics' Perkins, rookie Walker undergo surgery

BOSTON (AP)—Boston Celtics center Kendrick Perkins underwent surgery on his left shoulder Wednesday to repair an injury that nagged him during the NBA finals and forced him to miss Game 5.

The Celtics said Perkins, 23, had arthroscopic surgery at New England Baptist Hospital, as did rookie Bill Walker, who had damage to his right knee repaired Wednesday.

The NBA champions said both procedures, led by team physician Dr. Brian McKeon, were successful. No timetable has been set for Perkins' and Walker's off-season returns to the Celtics, but Perkins' agent, Bob Myers, said Wednesday that Perkins will spend the next couple months rehabilitating, and "just wants to get ready for training camp at this point."

In 2006, Perkins dislocated his left shoulder, missed three games and needed surgery after the season to repair it.

The shoulder nagged him again late last season, and he aggravated the injury in the finals against the Lakers,

causing him to miss Game 5. Asked before that game whether he was always in pain or just when he moved it, Perkins replied, "Any moment, it's painful."

In Game 4, the 6-foot-10-inch, 264-pound center left the game clutching the shoulder after slamming into Lakers forward Lamar Odom. When the Celtics returned to practice two days later, Perkins seemed unable to move his left arm, dribbling and shooting with his right hand only.

The Celtics obtained rights to the 6-6 Walker, out of Kansas State, in exchange for cash after he was chosen with the 47th pick by Washington in last week's NBA draft.

He injured his right knee in a pre-draft workout last month and missed the Celtics' rookie camp. He had surgery on the same knee as a high school freshman.

Walker also underwent surgery on his left knee as a college freshman after he suffered a torn ligament.

2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament

Photos by MARK RABAGO



Participating teams in the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament take the field during the awards ceremony last night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.



Philippines Junior All-Stars go on their victory lap while carrying the Philippine flag after beating the CNMI, 7-6, yesterday.



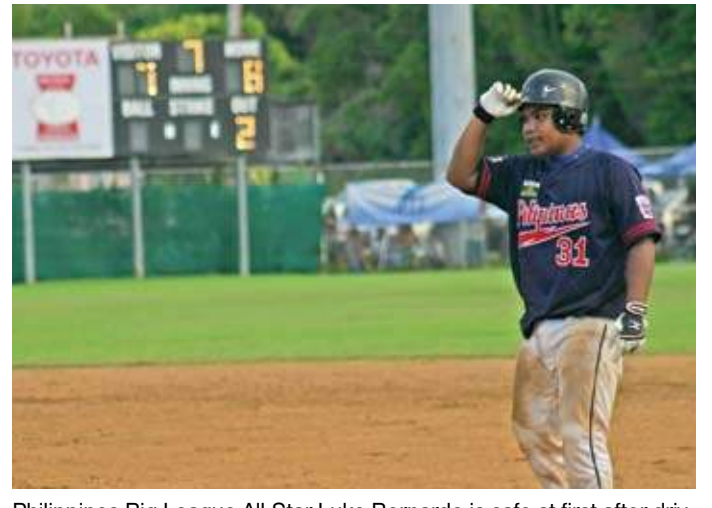
CNMI Big League All-Stars pose with the Asia-Pacific Big League championship banner and their medals during the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament award ceremony.



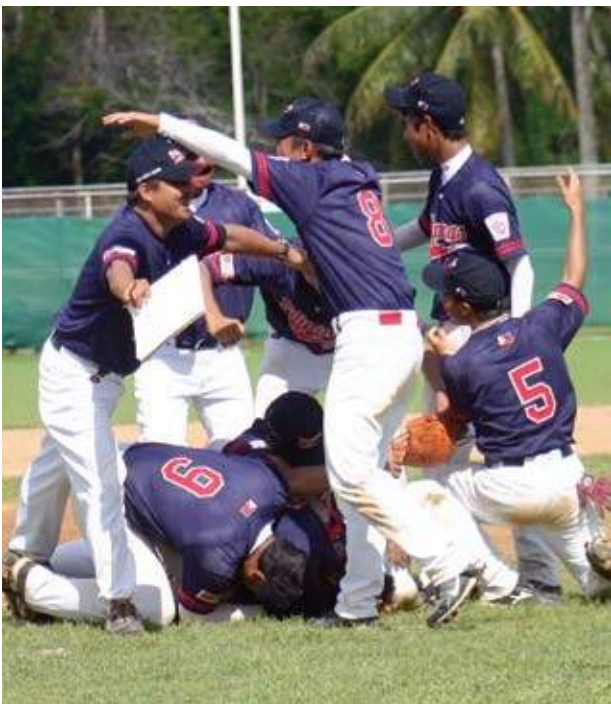
Philippines Junior All-Stars' Pepe Da Silva goes up to bat against CNMI starting pitcher Lamar Iguel.



Philippines Senior All-Star Carlos Laurel goes up to bat against CNMI relief pitcher David Camacho in their Senior League championship game yesterday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.



Philippines Big League All-Star Luke Bernardo is safe at first after driving in Fernando Laurel in the seventh inning of their finals game against the CNMI.



Philippines Senior All-Stars pile up on top of one another after beating the CNMI, 7-6.



Philippines Junior All-Stars starting pitcher Charles Catangui steps out of the mound to check a runner in second base in their finals game against the CNMI in the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament yesterday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.



CNMI Big League All-Star relief pitcher Shane Yamada held off a late Philippine rally in the Big League finals of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament yesterday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.



Philippines Senior All-Star ace Yusuke Kuroda recorded a complete game in the country's 7-6 win against the CNMI in the Senior League finals.



Copeland shines in farewell game, leads Coke to victory

Donald Copeland saved his best for last, and the Coca-Cola Tigers, at last, nailed elusive win No. 10. Copeland erupted for 32 points in his farewell game on local soil, leading the Tigers to an 89-80 victory over the Sta. Lucia Realtors.

42

Saipan Tribune Sports

Federer routs Ancic at Wimbledon; gets Safin next

Lest anyone forget that Roger Federer has, indeed, lost at Wimbledon, the BBC filled time during a rain delay Wednesday by rolling tape of his 2002 first-round exit against Mario Ancic.



38

44 FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI prevents sweep by Philippines, wins Big League

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The CNMI Big League All-Stars will be going to Easley, South Carolina, after holding off a gallant comeback by the Philippines in the third and final game of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament last night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The hosts took control of the contest shortly after Giovanni Sablan was replaced by Shane Yamada on the mound.

Sablan was a bit shaky in the start, allowing a couple of runs by the Philippines, which led 2-1 heading into the bottom of the third.

That was when the CNMI's bats came alive as Jesus Iguel, Yamada, and Vincent Sablan delivered consecutive



MARK RABAGO

The CNMI Big League All-Stars flash the No. 1 sign while atop the mound following their 8-6 victory against the Philippines in the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament yesterday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

singles before Nunu Kapileo drove in two runs to give the CNMI the lead at 3-2. Sablan later darted to home plate to give the hosts a two-run cushion.

The Philippines cut the CNMI's lead to 4-3 when Paolo Mallari stole from third base in the top of the fifth, but the hosts retaliated with two more home plate crossings in the bottom of the inning to make it a three-run ballgame.

The visitors continued to gnaw on the lead the next inning as Bastie Uichico scored on an error by Yamada to make it 6-4.

But like the previous inning the CNMI answered that run with two scores of their own when Iguel and Yamada returned home on a costly throwing error by catcher Luke Paolo Bernardo.

Down 8-4, all seemed lost for the

Philippines as everything from the players' body language to the silence of its normally boisterous crowd suggested that defeat was just an inning away.

But just as everyone in the Oleai Sports Complex ball field was about to count them out, the Philippines came roaring back courtesy of a lead-off single by Fernando Laurel, who later scored on an error.

A double by Angelo Esguerra led to a J.B. Lomoton run and Esguerra himself crossed the plate on a single by Bernardo to make it just a one run deficit for the Philippines, 7-8—all these with two outs staring them on the face.

But with the local crowd egging him on, Yamada again brought sanity back to what was shaping up to be a monu-

See CNMI on Page 42

RP wins Juniors and Seniors

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Philippines took the championships of the Junior and Senior divisions of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament after nipping host CNMI in their respective finals yesterday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

According to Philippine head of delegation Catherine Tenco-Ong, this marks the first time the Philippines' Little League Baseball program will be sending two teams in the 2008 World Series.

The Philippines Junior All-Stars were the first to book a ticket to Williamsport, Pennsylvania, when they rallied from a two-run deficit late in the game by scoring three runs in the sixth to beat the CNMI, 7-6.



After the hosts broke a 4-4 tie when Nathan Guerrero's triple scored starting pitcher Lamarc Iguel and Anthony Salas, the defending Juniors regional champions retaliated with the aforementioned three-run explosion in the next inning.

Curiously though, the Filipinos were only able to make their move when off-pace pitcher Iguel wasn't allowed to continue because of the Little League's 95 pitch count limit.

Leandro Banzon gave the Philippines a leadoff runner when he singled off Iguel in the top of the sixth.

He then was brought home by a single by Julian San Juan, who in turn advanced to third with a Vince Ching sacrifice fly.

Harry Nakamura then replaced Iguel on the mound, and the CNMI's flame-throwing pitcher proved to be just what

See RP on Page 42



MARK RABAGO

The Philippines Junior All-Stars, top, and Senior All-Stars pose with their Asia-Pacific championship banners and the Philippine flag after beating the CNMI in their respective division finals of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament yesterday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Pitching was the key for RP teams' success

By MARK RABAGO
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While the Philippines Senior All-Stars were saved by Yusuke Kuroda's shut-out performance in the seventh inning against the CNMI, their counterparts from the Juniors have the pitch count to thank for in their victory against the host team.

Alberto Catangui, manager of the Philippine Junior All-Star in the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament, was the first to admit that his hitters were having trouble trying to figure out Lamarc Iguel, the CNMI's throwback starting pitcher.

"We were hoping that we would finish him because we don't like slow balls. That is our problem ever since. We played Indonesia. We played

Guam. They were throwing us slow balls. I think the CNMI guys know it so they used Lamarc.

"So when they used Harry (Nakamura) that's when we began to hit the ball because the pitches he throws are our favorites. We like fastballs," he said to the *Saipan Tribune* shortly after beating the CNMI 7-6 in yesterday's first game at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Catangui, whose son Charles started on the mound for the Philippines, said while he still doesn't know the teams the newly minted Asia-Pacific Junior Champions will face in the World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, one thing's for sure, they will learn how to hit slow balls back in Manila.

See PITCHING on Page 42